

Tours

Report to IC Trust

2012/13



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Cover picture by Charlie Penny,
taken on the Fellwanderers
Easter Tour to Scotland.

Introduction

For the 2012/13 academic year the IC Trust generously awarded Imperial College Union (ICU) £30,000 to distribute between Clubs & Societies running tours. The money was used to subsidise trips taken to further the aims and objectives of these groups in a way that extended the range of their ordinary activities. The distribution of the funds is governed by policy passed by the Union's Clubs, Societies & Projects Board (CSPB).

Clubs & Societies are required to submit a report detailing the activities undertaken whilst on the tour. These documents form the basis of this report and the members are able to see how its money has been used to support student activity throughout last year. The money is primarily used for subsidising up to 40% of the transport costs per student.

Applications are considered against the definition of a tour and their eligibility for funding, by the Clubs, Societies & Projects Board (CSPB) of the Union. This is done in accordance with the Tours Policy and by a majority vote of the Board in each case.

The range of activities supported by this funding is a credit to Imperial College London

Proposals are assessed three times a year for each of three tour periods. At the first CSPB meeting of the year the available funding is split into proportions deemed prudent for periods that year. For the year 2012/13 this split was 20%, 30%, 50% for the winter, spring and summer tour periods respectively.

Only Clubs & Societies may apply for tour funding, other student groups such as student led projects, parts of the ICU volunteer management structure and academic representatives may not. Only Imperial students receive a proportion of the funding the IC Trust provides. The quality of the activities ICU provides mean they are increasingly popular to students of other universities, though these individuals receive no subsidy to participate.



Yas Edwards

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Despite our best efforts sadly not all tours go ahead for various reasons. If a Club or Society does not go on tour the IC Trust funding which they have been allocated is returned to the IC Trust. Furthermore, if a group does not use their allocated funding the unspent money is returned to the IC Trust.

The range of activities supported by this funding is a credit to Imperial College London, as can be seen from the reports included in the subsequent pages.

Imperial College Union would like to take this opportunity to thank the IC Trust for the opportunities it continues to facilitate through the funding it provides via this route. The activities it allows the Union to pursue are the envy of many other universities and a great contributor to the student experience at the College.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Y. Edwards." with a period at the end.

Winter period

This covers the period December 2012 to March 2013

Club/Society	Destination	Participants	Funding
ICSMSU Badminton	Netherlands	17	£1,157.70
Badminton	Birmingham	15	£112.63
Canoe	Scotland	13	£286.04
Caving	Yorkshire	14	£300.96
Dance Company	Manchester	35	£419.23
De La Beche	Isle of Wight	45	£495.05
Exploration	Italy	9	£495.22
Fellwanderers	Lake District	15	£233.61
Gliding	Scotland	10	£248.57
Japanese	Brighton	15	£127.29
Mountaineering	Scotland	15	£403.32
Outdoor	Scotland	24	£696.52
String Ensemble	Glastonbury	17	£165.19
Wushu	Manchester	17	£250.82

Spring period

This covers the period April 2013 to June 2013

Club/Society	Destination	Participants	Funding
CivSoc	Prague	57	£2,428.03
Caving	Spain	12	£745.65
Fellwanderers	Scotland	14	£184.42
Cheerleading	Nottingham	51	£379.71
ArtSoc	Austria	16	£453.37
Catholic Society	Langport	20	£429.21
LeoSoc	Germany	10	£211.59
Underwater	Iceland	12	£1,010.28
Parachute	Headcorn	11	£70.30
Sync Swimming	France	9	£379.51
Climbing (Silwood)	France	8	£157.46
Football	Newcastle	20	£93.97
Mountaineering	Wales	18	£302.22
Golf	France	8	£174.73
Natural History (Silwood)	Slimbridge	20	£62.60
Canoe	Corsica	9	£279.36
Outdoor	Turkey	18	£1,466.78
Photo (Silwood)	Wales	8	£81.27
Chamber Choir	Wales	17	£153.93
Photosoc	Iceland	9	£1,199.23
Cypriot	Portugal	40	£1,219.04

Summer period

This covers the period July 2013 to December 2013

Club/Society	Destination	Participants	Funding
A Cappella	North East USA	12	£2,233.88
Chamber Choir	Hungary	16	£626.69
Jazz Big Band	Czech Republic	15	£650.04
Sinfonietta	Spain	45	£2,076.26
Cricket	Bournemouth	15	£90.46
Cross Country	Wales	21	£319.20
Football	Poland	24	£1,280.63
Gaelic Sports	Poland/Czech Republic	14	£1,043.02
Hockey	Spain	42	£2,341.83
Kendo	Japan	6	£715.86
Women's Rugby	Cornwall	16	£152.59
ICSMSU Tennis	Spain	10	£749.10
Hindu	Lake District	17	£173.70
Canoe	Slovenia	21	£1,042.21
Caving	Slovenia	24	£1,314.69
Exploration	France	6	£425.06
Fellwanderers	Iceland	13	£1,437.63
Gaming	Spain	13	£635.07
Mountaineering	Spain	12	£768.38
Underwater	Croatia	6	£949.57
VVMC	Lake District/Yorkshire	5	£220.02
Wakeboarding	France	6	£178.58
Yacht	Greece	6	£1,023.38

Tour Reports

The tour reports are arranged by tour period, whilst we require some content it is a way for the students who went on the tour to express themselves and explain to the outside world what they were doing. The reports vary considerably in content and style. Many of these reports formed the foundation for an article in the student newspaper, Felix, and most were circulated around the Club or Society in question.

We hope that you enjoy them all and find them informative regarding the range of student activities the IC Trust supported last year.

Winter Period

ICSMSU Badminton Winter Tour Report

Nineteen members of ICSMSU Badminton travelled to the Netherlands over winter break. We went to take part in the annual International Student Badminton Tournament at the University of Twente in Enschede, where we played against over 200 other students from all across Europe.

After leaving London at 3.30am on Friday 28th December (a miracle that everyone got up on time!), we flew out to Amsterdam, where we spent the day, sightseeing and eating some really good Indonesian food. We took the train onto Enschede that evening, a 2 hour journey that was welcomed by all as an opportunity for a good nap. Arriving at the University of Twente we set up our sleeping gear in the sports hall, where everyone would be staying for the next 3 nights. We registered, got tournament t-shirts and then those who weren't entirely exhausted had some drinks at the Vestingsbar on campus, before collapsing onto our air mattresses for the night.

After being woke up by loud music piped into the hall (our wake up call throughout the tournament!) we were introduced to our partners, which come from a different country to your own, a great opportunity to mix and make new friends. Everyone competed in 2 categories out of singles, doubles and mixed and there were 4 skill categories, ranging from international to beginners. We had players in B, C and D levels. Unfortunately since there were not enough girls at the tournament (just like Imperial!) some had boys had to play singles instead of mixed, but generally all were pleased with the selection of games we got during our stay, apart from maybe Mens Singles D who were woken up at 9am for their matches! Some of the best matches were when you ended up playing against someone else from Imperial, these got very heated and the rest of the team would all come and watch too.

In the evenings we had great dinners at restaurants in Enschede. There were also activities such as a pub quiz (at the smallest possible pub, we ended up sitting on the floor!) and pool. Later we headed to clubs in Enschede and Hengelo, which were really nice and pretty cheap compared to London. We'd then head back exhausted to try and grab a couple hours sleep before matches resumed the next morning.

By the final day, everyone was trying to get up in the rankings in their individual categories. We didn't win any, but did come second in Ladies Doubles C, congratulations to Aayushi. Our President Hannah and ex-President Nav still hadn't won any matches, and had us all biting our nails until they finally won their last ones of the day. Unfortunately the team was dropping like flies by this point - Ivan had got ill, Zhouli broke his glasses and Alice injured her shoulder. Just as well it was almost time to go, we had a Chinese takeaway before dressing up in Japanese themed costumes (pokemon, nintendo, dragonball z, karate and ninjas) for the New Year's party. There were great fireworks, burgers and lots of drinks in the Vestingbar.

No-one was feeling great when we had to wake up at 6am on New Year's day, to get a coach back to Schiphol airport! But at least our early flight meant that we were home in London for lunchtime, and could have a good long well-deserved sleep. Everyone agreed they'd had an amazing time - it was such a good opportunity to play badminton at your own individual level with an entirely different group of people. It was also a great way for our new club members to get to know the committee and older members. Overall the tour was a great success and we would love to go compete again in a similar tournament in the future.



ICSMSU Badminton Winter Tour Report



Attendees:

Hannah Cheney Lowe, Alice Leung, Martin Sidery, Nick Elliston, Nav Setty, Ivan Ramirez, Aayushi Sen, Onur Citkin, Yan Lap Cheung, Muhammad Sahime, Ananth Jaya Kumar, Jason He, Zhouidi Dai, Matthew Lock, Raja Jambulingam, Andrew McRae and Kartik Subbaraj.

Not included in overall budget as travelled separately Johnson Chen and Vin Soon Wanyan (alumnus)

ACC Badminton Club Winter Report

ACC badminton club is one of the largest sports club at Imperial College, in addition to normal badminton activities, we organise club tournaments, social events and an once a year trip. In this year's tour, we went to Birmingham for 3 days 2 nights, where friendly match was arranged and club members played a match against Birmingham City University. Tickets were also booked for members to watch the prestigious world-class badminton tournament, Yonex All England Open Badminton Championship, an equivalent to the Wimbledon in tennis.

The quarter, semi and finals of the All England Open Badminton Championship took place in Birmingham on 8th to 10th March. 15 members went on the tour on a first come first serve basis.

The aim is to let our club members improve by watching how world class professional players play against each other and by learning from them. In addition, since badminton players around the world gathered in Birmingham, our club members can bond and socialize with them. Excitingly, some of our club members managed to catch up with some of the well-known professional coaches, players and took their autographs and photos with them. *(On the right: the Badminton Championship in action)*



To our surprise, some of the people staying at the same hostel went all the way from South-East Asia to be part of this event. During this tour, we made friends with Malaysians and badminton players from universities around UK. Since club members don't normally participate in the BUCS (British Universities & Colleges Sport) competitions, thanks to ICTrust, this tour has allowed us to network with other unis: to the North, Birmingham City University, to the West, Cardiff University and to the South, Surrey University. We hope in the future, we'll be able to arrange more friendly matches against other unis, not limited to team members only, but for club members as well.

(Below: Friendly matches against Birmingham City University)





Imperial College Canoe Club

Winter Tour 2012

Scotland

Dates

27 December 2012 – 4 January 2013

Attendees

Alby "17 point turn" Roseveare
Rachel "scrabble cheat " Fox
Jake "ladies man" Reynolds
Ally "on safari" Cott
Derf "powerful hips" Delcassian
Rory "Blockbuster Bob" Fyffe

Special Guests

Hostel Bobby, Barry Scoopington, Martin, Samantha, Heidi, Arthur Dent and friends.

Finances

Item	Total cost
Transport	£958.91
Food	£190.80
Accomodation	£770.00
Trip book	£1.99
Total expenditure	£1921.70
Total tour subsidy	£286.04
Total cost per person	£272.62

Diary

27.12.2012

Ally strolled into the union at 10:30am, just a few hours after his 5am start, meeting Rory and Rachel to load boats and kit up. Everyone else had wisely decided to be picked up en route, leaving our keen beans to select suitable equipment for all. Despite specific instructions, the snow chains were forgotten but much de-icer was packed instead. Some traffic later, and after collecting Jake from his rural establishment, KFC was deemed an appropriate breakfast and much popcorn chicken was consumed. A mere 3 hours behind schedule Alby and Derf were collected from Warrington with parental provisions before the team eventually made their way to the Scottish border. Far from the welcoming atmosphere expected, the team accidentally took a turn to Narnia before reaching our Mansion in Comrie. After sausage pasta an early night was had by all, with members turning into their respective "lady nests" or "man caves" before the crazy white water we planned to run.

28.12.2012

With everything looking high a jaunt down the Knaik was deemed appropriate. After the majority of the group ate cocopops, we drove to Braco to drop off the bike before kitting up. At Grade 2/3, the Knaik was the perfect warm up. Sadly, this river proved to be a spate run that saw Jake's first river roll and was a fantastic intro to big water boating Scottish style. With few eddies and several fences Jake's boat took a solo downstream – Ally, Alby and Rory chaseboated, whilst Derf and Jake walked off to find the bus with Rach in hot pursuit. On reaching the shuttle destination they found 3 people and 2 boats – far fewer than initially planned, it appeared 2 boats had continued to enjoy the scenic tour without their owners. Rory and Alby continued on foot to search for our quarry whilst the beta team enjoyed tea and cake. Having successfully found Heidi (Ally's boat) hiding in a tree, Derf and Jake undertook a perilous journey involving a boggy field, a lake and ferry glide across a small stream, several rampant deer, a railway line and an uphill clamber to retrieve the boat. Jake would like to take full credit for traversing the railway whilst keeping Heidi safe, however this is not deserved.



Rory collects Heidi from her hiding place in the shrubbery

Reunited, minus the GT, the team returned exhausted to the mansion for Jam Chicken and a never-ending game of Trivial pursuit in which our general lack of 80's entertainment knowledge reduced the speed of the game somewhat. The man cave was treated to a politically correct bed time story whilst those in the lady nest bedded down for an awkward night of Rach shouting at Derf in her sleep. Derf sensibly avoided a fight by telling Rach "it didn't matter" and nestling back to a toasty warm slumber.

29.12.2012

Leaving at 8.30 sharp we headed back to Braco to recontinue the search for the missing Gt. Luckily, Derf's dad had bought a raft at a bargain price from an excellent local car boot sale so the lady nest took to the water in inflatable form. All members on the water, Jake sporting a shiny new mamba, a slow float downstream eventually revealed Ally's missing throw line just 4 foot above the river on the bank. The realisation that it might have been a bit high yesterday hit home. In an attempt to be more efficient, we split into two teams, one taking the raft and Martin back to the bus whilst the other continued to enjoy dead fish, kingfishers and eventually found the GT! Reunited team "Spate or nothing" enjoyed a pub lunch and a spot of shopping (Rory purchasing a pair of highland shoes, Alby an extravagantly expensive notebook and Derf a pair of matching suitcases in tan). Attempting to make the most of the day, a scenic walk by the loch was planned and finished in the dark. A return to Comrie for delicious treats prepared by Ally, including spam stuffed peppers and chilli, was followed by chocolate wine before a competitive game of Blockbusters ensued. Once again, our lack of 80's trivia, specifically answers beginning with a K, proved a hindrance. The elusive David Jenson once again appeared before another politically correct story about Rumpelstiltskin lulled us to sleep.

30.12.2012

Tadah! With 6 boats and 6 people we headed to the Tummel in search of adventure. Alby sped up the windy roads before being defeated by the 3rd gear resulting a small slide through the snow. A brief attempt to traverse the hill was foiled by icy conditions (also known as the lack of snow chains...). Luckily the team was on hand to clear the road using a variety of techniques; Jake favouring the paddle shovel motion, Derf the sweep stroke and Ally the small red beach spade he brought in case of emergency. Rory used his "arse cam" to record the 17 point turn before Alby escaped from the road and we headed in search of fairer climes. Eventually we put on the Tay but not before Rachel and Derf had desecrated a local golf course. We found another spate run, where a strong eddy line and loose knees foxed Jake in the first few minutes. The river was very fast with a surprise hole that Alby almost surfed but decided against before we reached the crux; a powerful grade 3 that was styled by all, including Jake's first slalom gate.



Derf at the get on and Ally enjoying the (freeeeezing) Tay

Alby cycled off at speed to collect the bus whilst the rest of the team admired superwoman. Having been shown up by this wondrous lady, who made all the lines look easy and was excellently wearing shorts in the snow, the sun came out and we decided to rush in another river, but not before Inflaty-Rachel had made an appearance.

Arriving at the Lyon, we spent some time inspecting the constriction before 3 reckless (aka brave and awesome) keen beans put on in the fading light. A wonderful run through the peculiar gorges, grade 3 pool drop style, saw a few rolls from Rory, an epic portage and one short swim from Rachel, which was assisted by Rachel jettisoning Martin downriver after rescue. Reunited at last we shimmied homewards for Rachel's risotto only slightly hindered by the crunchy own brand rice. A quick pack later we headed to the pub for a contentious game of Scrabble in which married couple Rach and Rory debated the existence of the "100 point pluralisation high score" and 3 co dependant goats later, we were asleep.



Rachel and Rory enjoying the Lyon gorge and the portage around the constriction

31.12.2012

A very early start and we all exited the building bringing people, kit and plenty of linseeds to the bus for the long day ahead. Ally provided Star Wars story tapes and whilst we couldn't turn the page with the narrator, everyone enjoyed Luke's antics around the Death Star. 3 story tapes later we made it to the Orchy where we found a mind alteringly high level. Having a quick look at Glen Orchy seemed prudent given the river had decided to cross the boundary between bank and road. With the middle stonking, the inspection of the lower was hampered by a large puddle blocking the entire road which rapidly rose to encroach on the bus's personal space, rising 2ft in 10mins. A drive to Fort William allowed Haggis purchase and was followed by a trip to the Spean. This was also off-its-tits, registering a "high 7" on the gauge. To cut a long story short, every river in the world was too high so

a team decision for a romantic walk for 6 by the Archaig was made. Somewhat boggy/extremely flooded, the main event allowed a game of fantasy line before we reached the top of the path. Balancing across a tree to cross the epic stream, Jake being cocky with his no arm approach, we found even the loch was in spate attacking the road.

We returned to the bus and returned to Aite Cruinnichidh where we enjoyed a super hot sauna and a tasty meal of Haggis, neeps and tatties provided by head chef Rory and actual chefs Ally and Alby. With several warm up cans for Alby, Rory and Derf, on to the Ceildh with our newest amigo Bobby in tow. Despite a shimmery frock the first band didn't manage to entice us onto the dance floor, apart from a Waltz from Rory and Rach and some break-dance beats by Jake. After a violation of ceilidh etiquette Rach was double Gangnam Styled until we took to the floor for the first dance. Aside from Rory's dislike of Canadian barn style, all the moves were performed with aplomb by all. Sometime later, with a little practice under his belt, Jake controversially took on two ladies at a time whilst Rory almost started a fight with another highlander trying to dance with his partner. Rachel and Derf used their powerful pendulum hips to teach Alby some thrusting before being distracted by Jake, the ladies man, now trying to disentangle himself from an elderly fan. With his fan base growing and offers of breakfast being thrown around we decided to collect Bobby and head home, as soon as Alby had finished having the time of his life in a queue. Inappropriate Derf also made an appearance with some wild dance moves wholly unsuitable for the family audience, somewhat ruined by her inability to stay upright. There was still time for a round of Auld Lang Syne and another attempt by Derf to lead every dance, much to Rory's disapproval, before we returned home for a nightcap.

1.1.2013

Hangover breakfast was leisurely, with Lourn sausage adding to the protein rich start to the day. Eventually making it to the bus to find the Spean at a more reasonable 4.5 (still high!) we headed for the lower Roy for a warm up. Driving up the Glen we spotted the infamous Laurent who gave us a good indication of the levels so we all kitted up and trekked to the river via a steep and winding path. A beautiful run with Jake showing extreme perseverance for epic T rescue times. Derf had a high brace/pin moment whilst leading and Rory took a cheeky roll but we arrived at Roy Bridge unscathed. Much faff was had in determining the elite team ready to head on down the high middle Spean, but eventually it turned out all of us qualified. We started with a tasty 3+ under the railway bridge and enjoyed a pleasant float into the Spean. Confluence concurred, we all tackled the meaty rapid through a variety of lines – Alby and Rory in the meat. Successfully completing the run, Rach headed off for a cycle shuttle in the dark whilst the rest of us got cosy in the group shelter. Alby showed us that funky beats aquapack style are the way to go when waiting. Returning to base, a much tamer night ensued with Spanish Omelette and a visit to the lady nest for all. The man hole was proving a little unpleasant with a pungency French cheese would be proud of. Hugh Jackman also made an appearance in the lady nest which everyone enjoyed. Jake, the knowledge sponge, learnt more Sci-Fi than he cared to whilst a raging debate about the overarching story of all 3 (or 4) X-men films proved inconclusive. Ah, Imperial students... We retired for a peaceful evening, only to be distracted by a phantom Macrae marching up and down the stairs.



Jake's infamous 'learning face'

2.1.2013

Arising before the sun we headed to the Lagan dam to check levels, a fruity 39 pipes were running so onwards to the Pattack. A very complicated river/road system left Alby and Rach confused about where the get on actually was, but Rory used his Scottish charm and we pootled past the farmhouse to the get on. A wander through the forest brought us to the Falls of Pattack, which most of us portaged. Heading downstream we found fantastic read and run that all enjoyed until a tricky pin, followed by many T rescues, successful rolls and hand of god moves later, left Jake boatless. Rory and Alby morphed into their alter egos Laurel and Hardy for some chase boating, whilst Derf, Rach and Ally enjoyed a scenic eddy hop down the first gorge.



Jake style the sneak line around a tricky rapid

A large flat pool allowed the whole team to reunite before a technical from Derf caused a small amount of faff as Barry had all of the Pattack inside him. We continued until the start of the grade 4 gorge, where we had some time to inspect and Ally hopped off for a nap, wisely anticipating the drama about to ensue. Alby, Derf and Rory elected to run the top double drop with Jake and Rach putting on below.



Alby and Rory on the lead in to the gorge

Derf suffered an unlucky swim in the fold and Alby a cheeky roll whilst rescuing her. Rach was too busy taking photos of Derf's many roll attempts to throw a line successfully... Jake showed us swimming with style when he nailed the line on the last drop without a boat before Rach ferried him to the takeout.

Collecting people and kit we headed for river 2 of the day, but not before a treat of cheese and bacon sandwiches and one giant linseed bar to share (which also provided some extra aluminium for all your trace element needs...). Rach, Derf, Alby and Rory were keen for another go so hopped onto the upper Roy for a blast down some grade 3-4. After 13 minutes the ladies realised they were too tired to continue so bailed for a 65m vertical gorge take out hindered only slightly by the 10m line, whilst the boys continued to the take out. Once back at the hostel Derf's Inappropriate alter ego raised her head with a stream of saucy actions including following Rach into the shower before a team sauna calmed her down. Rory, meanwhile, prepared a delicious meal of pork, apple and cidery goodness for all to enjoy before another night in the lady nest.

3.1.2013

Driving across to Glen Etive we had high hopes for a run down the Etive. As seemed to be the season this winter the Middle Etive was far too high. Many of the classic rapids had morphed into some unrecognisable choss, our favourite being "straight angle" but we persevered! Kitting up we headed upstream for an inspect and put on. With 100m of an Etive trib under our belt, the upper proved to be a low volume technical run in a fantastic location and was much enjoyed by all.



The view on the Upper Etive

We also got some expedition style boating in with our latest put on at the bottom of a gorge allowing some handy rope work just after the grade 5+. Despite a nervous search for the take out from river, attempting to ensure no one fell into the first pour over of triple step, we made it to the end and once again enjoyed group shelter and honey-tea time before Alby returned with the bus.

Keen for more, we shuttled to the start of the Lower Etive where 4 young un's put on. Derf and Ally went on Safari, spotting a team of Stags, their lady friends and a golden eagle before returning to collect those that had ventured on the lower. Tales of the lower entertained on the way home, and we learnt that the Chuckle brothers had once again made an appearance on river playing "to me, to you" with Jake's boat. Rachel finally made it into the lower Etive gorge after several false starts on previous Imperial trips.



Alby on the main event of the Lower Etive



Rory tackles the same rapid

The evening came far too soon with Derf cooking a delicious Thai chicken curry with mystery ingredient "Ally's soup," Jake tried out some voices in his story telling and John Terry showing us how not to become a successful country singer.

4.1.2013

Alas! Our last day had approached. We efficiently packed up the hostel and headed for home- but not before a run down the Spean Gorge! As the theme of the trip, the Spean was of course in Spate but the gorge largely washes out at this level so we hopped on for a blast down in high water. This was a lovely run and fun fun fun to end the trip. High water meant an extreme right hand line was required to avoid the meat in Triple Step (Derf chose the centre line and got munched) before we entered the gorge proper. Most of the familiar rapids no longer existed, but big powerful water, boils and strong eddy lines abounded testing our mettle.



Rory on a washed out 'Head Banger'

All too soon we reached head banger, which only Alby and Rory decided to run, before the end of our journey at the hydroelectric dam, which now looked like something more suitable for the Nile than Scotland.

Getting changed we repacked the bus and headed for the very long journey home. This proved to be rather uneventful, apart from a stop at a local services for Jake's first KFC (Original Recipe Box meal – we eased him in gently) until Derf abandoned ship in Knutsford and the rest of us drove to London.

Words: Derfogail

Photos: Alby, Rachel and Jake



Imperial College Caving Club



2012 Winter Tour
Yorkshire

Introduction

Our winter tour this year was to the North Pennine Club (NPC) in Yorkshire. Yorkshire was chosen due to its large number and variety of caves which are easy to access. There is always a cave to go to no matter skill levels or weather conditions. We also have a good relationship with the members of the NPC who are always willing to offer advice and expertise when we need it. Yorkshire is a fairly cheap destination as few caves require a fee to enter and our accommodation is inexpensive. In total 15 cavers came on the tour.

Aims and Objectives

- **To complete longer more demanding trips than is otherwise possible on weekend trips**
Sadly we were hampered by the adverse weather conditions and a lot of caves were either already flooded or too dangerous to attempt. We did however manage several longer Easegill trips as well as a trip to the classic King Pot, which is certainly demanding.
- **To practice route-finding within caves, using surveys and navigation tools where appropriate**
Several of our members began the long process of learning the massive Easegill system. The 'County' and 'Wretched Rabbit' entrances in particular.
- **To allow newer members to practice more challenging SRT (single rope technique)**
All members on the trip managed to go on several SRT trips.
- **To teach members SRT rigging**
Several members were introduced to rigging this tour, and most others were able to continue practicing.
- **To instruct members in cave rescue techniques**
Whilst no formal training took place, qualified members did instruct others throughout the tour. Risks such as flooding, rock-fall, hypothermia etc. were all discussed and techniques such as bottom-belaying, Italian hitches, friction knots were demonstrated which can be used to avoid bad situations.

Members on Tour

Oliver Myerscough
Rhys Tyers
Jarvist Frost
Chris Keeley
Sam Page
Saber King
Clare Tan
Fiona Hartley
Andrew Wilkins
Caroline Ainsworth
Tim Child
David Kirk-Patrick

Other Cavers

Izi
Andy
Dave
Tetley

Saturday 15th

Notts 1 - Everyone

Route Out	Route In		
	Left Hand	Central	Adamson's
Left Hand	Sam*	Andy, Izi	Rhys*
Central	Jarv*, Andrew		Tetley, Chris, Saber
Adamson's	Clare*	Oli, Fiona	

*Went to bottom

-Rhys Tyers

First trip of winter tour, everyone in the same cave, excellent. The advanced party had rigged down the first pitch (outside the cave) by the time we got there and we headed down. Apparently due to some issues with the pre-packed rope they had been delayed and we caught them in the main chamber. I headed off with Tetley, Chris and Saber down (or up) Adamson's. Our rope issues begin early with the rope for the dodgy climb being far too short to cover the whole climb. Never mind, I was climbing up first anyway to tie the ropes at the top so it made no difference. Rigging down to the first ledge was fairly uneventful but then going down the second was quite tricky. Tetley repeatedly suggested I put in rebelays but there were no p bolts so I had to use naturals.

As we neared the bottom (where the three routes meet) I saw Sam (who had entered via a different route) through a window in the wall, he flew down his rope without noticing me. I got the final hang and dropped the rope, shouting to Izi below as I did. Our rope was comically short, about 5m off the ground. Replacing the traverse with a dodgy sling/wire combination, more rope was now free to finish the hang.



We dropped in on Jarv and Clare who were waiting for us. We descended further finding Andy and the others in a small chamber. Andy had a plan and directed us all to our various fates. I was to go down with Jarv, Clare and Sam to the bottom. Jarv rigged down to the bottom and we followed. Down to the top of a waterfall and then down past this, swinging into a little passage. The passage is a great respite from the freezing water and draught of the pitch. Only a few

metres in is a sump and we huddled in here for a few minutes. Eventually I volunteered to derig and we headed out.

-Fiona Hartley

I think we managed every combination of routes in-and-out between the twelve of us. The advance team consisted of myself, Oli, Andy, and Izi; Oli managed to rig the entrance pitch and second pitch into the main chamber just before everyone else got there, despite a massive faff on the second pitch where he used the traverse line as the pitch rope and abseiled to the knot in the end of the rope.



We continued down the centre route. Izi gave me lots of helpful advice regarding re-belays and was generally a great companion to cave with. We dropped into the three-ways chamber first and Oli and Andy continued down to the traverse. We waited around as Clare & co dropped in from the left-hand route, to space things out a bit. When Rhys dropped the last Adamson's rope down it was four or five metres too short. Our president and treasurer seem to be doing this a lot at the moment - blame the rigging guide!

The Adamson's group dropped in eventually, revealing that they had fashioned a traverse line out of wires and slings to make their descent possible. Everyone wanted to carry on so one-by-one we went along the high and fun traverse and down the next pitch. Here we squeezed into the small amount of space available and each person was shuffled along if they weren't thinking of heading out.

After more discussion, I started heading back up the pitch on the way out. However, I was too big to get back up into the rift at the pitch head. This led to me swearing a lot. The highlight was involuntarily back-prussiking due to being so tightly wedged in; scared myself a bit there. I'm still not sure how it happened! Tetley came up the rope beneath me to help. We concluded a bolt had been missed; the traverse wasn't finished where the pitch began. So Tetley taught me how to back-prussick (intentional this time!), then changed-over and descended, as did I once the rope was free. Then he went back up to re-rig the pitch head. On my second ascent the pitch head was far more manageable, although still a bit awkward.

I went up Adamson's route with Oli and Clare on the way out. I was pretty slow. Clare sang a lot. Izi came down to find us after a while and told her she should sing happy songs, not sing like she was at her funeral. Tetley was smoking in the main chamber. I had to stand on Izi to get out of the entrance climb, and then he helped me out again on the final re-belay. Good trip!

Sunday 16th

Deaths Head: Jarv, Oli, Fiona, Andrew

-Fiona Hartley

Well - we attempted to go to Rumbling. Not having paid that much attention to the description, nor brought the GPS from the minibus we found a surface shaft, belayed to the fence post and then the tree (Oli) and duly abbed down. Deaths Head, much closer to the wall than we should have been, is a nice slender shaft with the usual entertaining trees growing sideways. The long y-hang from the bottom is pretty wet all things considered, certainly the bolters were not there while it was damp! Another short pitch off a y-hang lands in a large boulder sloped chamber. We had a little poke around the various digs, made use of the washing station under the inlet and then powered out. Apparently the impressively 10 m deep shored dig dropping down in the corner leads to another pitch or two, a wet bit that's probably sumped and thereby into the depths of Lost Johns'.

"We thought there would be more cave at the bottom" said Jarv as I finally joined them in the big chamber at the bottom of Death's Head Hole, having flailed around on one of the re-belays for ages during my descent. So there wasn't much left to do except head out again. A nice short trip, very appropriate for a Sunday. Back at the van the men decided to go down Lost Johns' but, having satisfied myself for the day with some much-needed practice at free-hanging re-belays, I shivered in the minibus for an hour, slept for an hour under all the jackets, and then waited another hour for everyone to get out of Lost Johns'.

Lost Johns': Izi, Saber, Tetley, Chris (joined by Jarv, Andrew, Oli)

-Oliver Myerscough



Having got back to the minibus rather earlier than we expected, Jarv, Andrew and I decided to nip into Lost Johns, since it was (a) so close to the road and (b) already rigged by the other team. Little did we know that they had accidentally used the ropes out of order, leading to an

interesting style of rigging on the second pitch involving a rather "fun" swing. Since we had plenty of time we spent a few moments here to normalise the rigging.



A pitch or two later I heard the noise of an advancing caver ahead of me. It was Saber, with Izi and the rest close behind. Jarv and Andrew turned around while I offered to take a tackle sack, but quickly decided I couldn't be bothered to wait and followed them out.

Craftsman's Pot: Clare, Rhys

-Rhys Tyers

Upon deciding that as small people we should do small people caves Clare and I decided to do Craftsman's. With a warning that it may be collapsed we set off to find it. We wandered around near Bull Pot and after dishearteningly discovering only a blocked off rift and a disintegrated sheep we were ready to call it a day and nip off to Brown Hill. Luckily as we wandered back we stumbled across it and dived in.

The entrance is ominous, a half-heartedly shored up climb, down into a small chamber. The way on from here is a muddy crawl that gets muddier with each person that passes, as Clare discovered following me. I wimped out of the 'tight' rift climb initially and Clare took the lead. She slipped straight through and I then found it much easier. The first pitch follows shortly after and involves putting on SRT gear whilst standing perilously close to the pitch. Clare rigged and I followed. At the bottom a loose slope lead into a hole surrounded by precariously piled rocks. The second pitch was a swing into a small tube followed by an interesting traverse to the hang. Shooting straight down this we came to a large boulder strewn chamber. A quick search confirmed that the way on was a flat out crawl in a stream.

We debated whether to go for it. "I'll go where you go" said Clare, grimacing at the thought of me taking her up on this offer. I crawled in attempting to dig at the loose pebbles on the floor to make more room for myself. About halfway into the crawl with my helmet scraping on the floor and ceiling and water covering one side of my mouth I thought "Fuck this". I desperately shuffled backwards, pausing briefly to unjam the Mr Choco in my pocket from a pebble. I emerged to

Clare's laughter. She was still dry. Clare elected not to attempt the crawl and we headed out. Clare ahead, with me derigging. We emerged from the cave at dusk.

Monday 17th Dec

Pippikin to Mistral (with various side routes): Clare, Jarv

Clare and Jarv made a successful trip down Pippikin to Mistral, even finding time on the way back to pop into Cow to check on Izi, Tetley and Sam but they didn't find them and headed back.

Jingling: Dave, Oli

Oli went to Jingling with Dave in order to practise and refine his rigging technique.

Cow Pot: Izi, Tetley, Sam

-Sam Page

After having done some one-to-one rigging with Dave down Jingling pot the previous day, I was keen to apply the basic techniques I had learned elsewhere, and so Tetley, Izi and I headed off to Cow pot.



The first pitch started immediately from the surface, so I tentatively backed over the edge of the rock. I had been told by Tetley to keep an eye out for bolts as places to put in first a rebelay, then a deviation. The rebelay was easily rigged, as I was able to stand quite sturdily on a ledge, whilst reaching the deviation was fun as it required swinging across to the bolt. I soon reached the bottom of the pitch, and the others headed down, Tetley giving me some choice advice on ways I could have improved my rigging thus far. Then followed some short passage which required crawling/crouching. We soon reached the next section which required rigging - a traverse around the edge of a large pitch. This was a lot more challenging, scary, and fun, than any rigging I had done before, and although progress was quite slow, I grew more satisfied with each knot that I threaded, and was pleased to make it to the other side, away from the constant drips, and somewhere that I could comfortably sit. We took a short break above the next pitch which followed directly on. Wisely, Tetley suggested that he rig this pitch, which I was happy to let him

do - I was not yet ready to rig a pitch that big, where you cannot hear your fellow cavers due to the size/water, and where there are slightly annoying rebelay/deviations.



Arriving at the bottom, knowing that we had lots of time to spare, Tetley wanted to have a good look around at several of the different ways on. One of which led us to go down, through gaps in the boulders, until we reached the streamway. At first, we happily started walking along, through the water, though the freezing temperature and the increasing depth of the water led to me and Izi getting out of the water onto the first rocks that we could find. Tetley however carried on, not noticing that we had stopped. This then led to several minutes of us shouting at each other, too far away to properly hear each other, Tetley yelling at us to follow him, us yelling for him to come back, which he then did. Tetley was keen to carry on that way, but me and Izi were feeling the cold, and thought it was a silly idea. After minutes of Tetley trying to persuade us to go on - 'It's not far, it doesn't get very deep...' I caved in, and so we followed him. However, the streamway was far, and it did get deep, and so as quickly as possible we made our way back. Of course, back at the hut, we learnt that we were in fact heading towards the sump, and wanted to be heading the other way along the stream...

At this point, feeling pretty damn cold, Tetley urged us to keep moving, onwards and upwards, back to where we had come from, and further upwards. After a fair bit of clambering up boulders, and using hand lines in parts, we reached a chamber with lots of very pretty formations, which we continued to explore for a bit, before heading out. The plan was for Tetley to derig the bottom pitch, Izi to derig the traverse, and me to derig the top pitch, however Tetley ended up derigging all (!). At the top, me and Tetley quickly headed back together towards the relative warmth of the minibus, both commenting on successful trip.

County Pot: Rhys, Andrew, Saber

Rhys Tyers

Leaving the hut at 1pm we were all eager to cave. Arriving at Bull pot Farm I realised that in my enthusiasm to leave I had forgotten to pack an oversuit. Saber realised he had forgotten everything except his helmet. For me the solution was borrowing Jarv's suspiciously comfy fabric oversuit, for Saber the caving was over.

I headed off with just Andrew in tow. The fluorescent markers across the moor, so clear in the daylight, lead us to the stile and we were quickly at County. I descended first. We made it past the first pitch with relative ease. We climbed down into the streamway, using our fuck-up rope early on to aid our descent. Following Tetley's instructions we made it to Siphon Chamber. We spent 20 minutes looking for a way around, the waterfall looking fairly intimidating from the top but in the end I used our 2nd pitch rope to abseil down and upon discovering that the climb down was actually pretty easy Andrew untied the rope and passed it down, then climbed down himself.

We found Poetic Justice quickly, again with Tetley's sage advice. I scrambled up with some difficulty and proceeded to watch the climber in Andrew die. Without handholds or footholds and unaware of how useful his bum and knees are for climbing he tried in vain for a few minutes. In the end I dropped a rope down and he popped up. We proceeded down the second pitch and then headed upstream, discovering a few odd nooks and crannies as well as White Line chamber. The waterfalls were swollen with the recent rain and very impressive. We then headed downstream and found our way all the way to Eureka Junction, though we didn't realise it at the time. Instead, noticing the thick foam forming a solid layer across the ceiling we decided that it was unwise to continue this way. We explored up towards Wretched Rabbit, reaching Four Ways Chamber before turning around and heading out.

Our trip back across the fields was hampered by the poor planning of the fluorescent posts, they are unevenly spaced and some of them do not fluoresce. This was not helpful in the fog and we ended up back the stile after getting turned around. Our second attempt was successful and we arrived back at the van.

NPC – Fiona, Chris

Fiona Hartley

Really should have gone caving, and intended to, but then final year guilt got the better of me in the morning and I did some revision instead - not enough to make it worthwhile however. What one realises is that if you're not caving, there really isn't much to do at a hut. So you might as well go. You might have a bad trip, but I feel like even that's better than being bored/unproductive.

Chris Keeley

The last time I did 3 days of straight caving having not been for a while ended legendarily badly [NB: Chris vomited down a pitch onto Saber last year] so it was definitely a good opportunity for a break and a lie in, followed by a lame attempt at final year project work

Tuesday 18th

King Pot – Jarv, Oli, Saber, Rhys

Jarvist Frost

Oh King! It was already beyond midday, and we needed a target. Uncertain weather and a pile of relatively unused short lengths of 9mm, the target was obvious. Saber packed the bags and was keen for some rigging. We set off, making the cave entrance after asking permission at Braida Garth for a rather late 3PM. Saber rigged the pitches on the way down to the T-shaped passage (traverse still rigged), I hunked the bag through the T-shape and then Oli & Rhys rigged the next two.

I took us down to Kakamondo, and then we got together, considered the time and decided to give Elizabeth a try. It was pretty wet, and we went onto the two 8mm Spitz. Someone has threaded a permanent sling around a bit of stal accessible in a small bedding plane. This would enable you to rig pretty dry from a Y-hang off the P-bolts without needing hangers, with quite a swing.

With high efficiency we exchanged at the bottom, Rhys setting off up barely as Saber had removed his descender. Oli and I brought up the rear with him derigging as far as the T-shaped passage, I did the T-shape again, and then Rhys derigged the entrance series. Out for 9:20PM, not a bad little >6hrs trip! Back in time for tea and medals, or rather, pasta and tomato sauce.

Bull Pot – Dave, Chris, Andrew

Chris Keeley

Keen to get a first rigging trip in before leaving on Wednesday, and keen to avoid the King trip, I asked Dave if he'd "show me the ropes" in a cave he thought suitable. He decided on Bull and we started packing, albeit at a much more leisurely pace than the other group. Having only half-learned (and since completely forgotten) the three loops method for tying an alpine butterfly last winter tour, I instead learned Dave's (superior) twist method, practicing while we were faffing around in the NPC and on the drive over.

After changing we headed up to the entrance, only slightly overshooting where the entrance was. Starting with a double-threaded figure-of-eight and an alpine butterfly for the backups I edged towards the primary hang and proceeded to tie another alpine butterfly and bowline on a bight, which was pretty awful and I fixed with some instruction. Then came the excitement (fear?) from the first time abseiling on my own knots. Of course there was no problem but it's hard to tell the nagging feeling in the back of your head that. Heading further in and starting on the first traverse fully revealed why rigging is so tricky. While you're always attached to the rope and safe, I found myself being extra cautious while positioning myself to rig the next bolt as if you slip you fall that much farther and it's a pain to get back up again. After some short pitches and traverses, we reached the bottom (one pitch before the sump as it's apparently not worth it) and wandered down a bit further before turning around. Derigging wasn't particularly eventful but still fun, if a strange, methodical kind of fun.

Thinking about not only what you're attached to but what that's attached to adds another level to rigging and derigging that makes it more interesting, but time consuming. My experiences with rigging aside the trip was good fun, short and sweet and I learned a great deal quite quickly.

Wednesday 19th

Knacker Trapper – Rhys, Clare

Rhys Tyers

The morning started unenthusiastically. With a howling gale and threats of rain it did not seem like a pleasant day for caving. Nevertheless Clare suggested doing another 'more interesting' cave and eventually we settled on Knacker Trapper.

The cave itself begins with a plastic tube covered with a metal plate down which is a small chamber. A tight crawl leads off. Sometimes sideways, sometimes flat out, with a tackle sack the crawl took about 10 minutes. This emerges on the first pitch, which is a free climb and the second pitch, which is rigged. Despite the plan that I would rig, the lack of p-bolts meant that I was quite unsure of where to belay so Clare did a lot of the decision making. Down the pitch a tight awkward rift begins. This was probably the first time I found a rift a bit tight. I had to think fairly carefully about where I moved my legs. A lot of the rift required committing to plunging in head first and as I got half way I got a bit stuck and backed out to let Clare take the lead. As per usual Clare slid through with minimal effort and with renewed confidence I followed. After the rift we went down the third pitch to a passage very similar to the T-Shaped passage in King, but smaller.



We soon found 'University Challenge', a much larger rift. Without any p-bolts it was our choice where to descend into the rift. We got maybe 20 metres down and 20 metres in. I decided that I wasn't really up to continuing and wanted to head out, Clare agreed. We sped out and I actually enjoyed the tight rifts a lot more on the way out, perhaps just because I was confident I could actually do it now. We got to the second pitch (i.e. the first rigged pitch) and Clare went up first. I followed and wedged myself in at the top of the pitch. As I did one of the flakes we had belayed off, fell off the wall and onto me. It had lasted just long enough. Inspired by my near death (or near twisted ankle) experience, Clare and I got out with few problems.

Jingling - Jarv, Tetley, Saber, Tim, Caroline

Jarvist Frost

A nice little trip. The weather was coming in, but we had at least a few hours of pleasance. Saber grappled with the direct route, while I set off across to the Lateral, before guiding Tim through the rigging of the lower levels. Tim then derigged the majority, getting us back to the surface just as the winds starting really getting up. A quick change before the heavens opened, and back to the hut for another delicious meal.

Thursday 20th

Easegill - Wretched Rabbit - Oliver, Rhys, Caroline, Saber

With my newly manufactured Daren drum based protection for my camera I was keen to take some photos underground. The now familiar walk to Easegill was made quite difficult by the gale force winds and driving rain. I was even able to lean against the wind during the stronger gusts. Undeterred we made it into the relative protection of the valley and navigated the swollen streamway to Wretched Rabbit.



Once in, despite the thick fixed ropes in place, Caroline rigged down the entrance climbs. They are not too difficult to climb up but since you don't have to lug rope through the rest of the cave it's easy enough just to rig it. We headed down the tight rifts. At one point we all had to squeeze into crevices to let another groups of cavers, heading the opposite way, pass us. There must have been at least 20 of them.

We found our way to four ways chamber and attempted to find the way up into the higher level passages. 45 minutes of searching revealed nothing but some interesting dead ends beyond crawls and climbs. Keen to do some caving we instead headed to Eureka junction. By now the menacing foam had started to dissipate so we stomped upstream. We eventually came to a boulder choke with no way on other than crouching neck deep in the stream. Saber was the only one brave/insane enough to do it. And despite his assurance that the passage was fine and dry on the other side we decided to head out.



On the way out I practiced my photography, capturing the elegance and beauty of caving (or managed some blurry photos of muddy walls). We arrived back at the van and Tetley and Tim turned up 40 minutes later.

Easegill - County - Tetley, Tim

Completed a successful trip to the high level passages.

Friday 21st

Lost Johns' – Dome, Centipede Exchange - Saber, Rhys, Oliver, Tim, Jarv

On Friday morning we decided that we would escape to London in the evening. We thought, however, that it would certainly be a shame to waste this last day of caving. We quickly got our gear together and headed off for a quick Lost Johns' exchange.

Saber rigged down centipede, followed by Jarv. Oli rigged down Dome, followed by Tim and me. It was an uneventful trip, nice and easy. A good warm down from the tour.

Escape!

Due to increasingly dire weather conditions, the threat of more rain, a dwindling of members and our second driver being unable to make it on tour we decided to cut the tour two days short and escape to the safety of London. It was perhaps ambitious to plan for a 9 day tour, so ending up with a 7 day tour (which is what we normally do) is perhaps not a bad thing.

Summary of Accounts

Outgoings	Amount
Food	£313.47
Minibus Hire	£462.00
Minibus Fuel	£169.35
Train tickets	£39.85
Accommodation	£275.50
Total	£ 1260.27

Income	Amount
Member Contributions	£1018.63
RCC Grant	£241.64
Total	£ 1260.27

ICU Dance Company



ICU Dance Company on Tour - Manchester Dance Competition (15th - 17th Feb).

Jen Norris - President

After grueling auditions in October, and countless hours of rehearsals since, ICU Dance Company's competition team (30 dancers and 3 non dancers - all full members of ICU) packed up their costumes and headed off to Manchester for a fantastic February weekend showcasing our talent in front of acclaimed judges and many other University's teams.

On the Saturday, we all dragged ourselves out of our hostel dorm bunk beds, slapping the stage makeup on and fixing our hair ready for our first performances. We had a short 30 minute walk to the venue, then the fun really began. The air was full of hairspray, glitter and fake tan, costumes flying around and the sound of tap shoes as teams had a last run through of their routines before hitting the stage.

We competed in 6 particularly tough categories against some universities with Dance degrees, but every dancer in the team did themselves and their choreographers proud, performing every dance perfectly with beautiful expression. There was a nail-biting wait until the evening social, where we found out the results of all the hard work put in over the last few of months. We achieved first place in Advanced Ballet, Intermediate Ballet and Contemporary and third place in Advanced Tap and Intermediate Tap. Unfortunately our Advanced Jazz narrowly missed out on a trophy, however it was a large category with many brilliant pieces from all of the universities in attendance. After finding out the results, it was time to celebrate! This is the best ICU Dance Company have performed in the past 4 years at least making me very proud to be a part of it. The whole team got together and, rather fittingly, toasted our success with a bit of dance floor action.

We ended up having to spend more SGI than we wanted to on this tour due to a confusion in what the tour budget could be spent on - we thought we could use it on what was budgeted for, but were told that it could only be used on transport. Also due to the decrease in grant this year we ended up with no costume budget which required some costumes coming out of SGI and the rest out of our dancers pockets.

We met our objectives by showcasing our talent to peers from other universities and backgrounds, which is very difficult to do at Imperial College during our normal activities. It was great for us to see what other university's dance teams come up with to inspire our new dancers to keep attending and strive to do even better the next year.

Overall, the trip was a fantastic success. Five out of six dances were placed in the top three and the atmosphere and team spirit throughout the whole weekend was more than anyone could have hoped for. I would recommend this dance competition to novice and advanced dancers alike. Many of our dancers in the intermediate team only started dancing in October last year and truly excelled themselves. Our advanced team showed off their skills, often leading to huge cheers from other universities, as well as from Imperial.

In the future, I would say that it would be good to do some fundraising as well as apply for tour budget as it is difficult with the ever reducing grant and tour budget pots to subsidise the tour as much as we would like to.

Photos













ISLE OF WIGHT DLB TOUR REPORT MARCH 2013

FRIDAY:

We left the RSM about 4pm after gathering everyone together, and set out on the surprisingly short drive to Portsmouth. We arrived at the hostel about 7:30pm after stopping to pick up supplies at a nearby Tesco's, and settled into our accommodation. After takeaway from the local fish and chip shop for dinner our guide for the weekend, final year PhD student Natasha Stephen, handed out field guides including the itinerary for the weekend, a history of the geology of the Isle of Wight and a fossil booklet for identifying invertebrates frequently found within local sediments.

SATURDAY:

The next morning was an early start to put it mildly for a DLB trip, but to my surprise everyone was up and ready to go way before the leaving time of 8:45am. We consequently arrived at the ferry port about an hour before we needed to, but before long we were on the ferry and sailing to the Isle of Wight. During the hour or so long journey, one of the attendees from the island gave us some inkling in the way of what we were to expect, by showing us the Isle of Wight twitter feed (breaking news updates included "Fog causing problems" and "new bakery aims to solve lack of jobs") and the reggae song "Welcome to the Isle of Wight" by Derek Sandy.

Our first stop was Dinosaur Isle, the dinosaur museum based on the Isle of Wight where many of the island's key discoveries are housed. Over 21 dinosaur species and many more pterosaur and fish species have been discovered on the Isle of Wight, so the museum was an ideal place to get to grips with the fossil content that was available on the island. We spent about an hour or so here examining the specimens on display (and for a few of us, playing in the interactive sandpits), in which time a guide was available for any questions. Lunch was had on the beach afterwards, where some people tried beach combing for sharks teeth and small invertebrate fossils (to little luck!).

After lunch, we headed off in the minibuses to Brightstone Bay, looking for the famous dinosaur footprints which are presented in casts and moulds along the shore. We had planned to be there at low tide, and luckily we managed to get the timing right. This enabled us to venture out to the edge of the wavecut platform, where a series of theropod footprints are visible in a trackway. Our PhD student Nat gave a short talk here to the first year students about a visible unconformity in the cliffs behind us and the general geology of the sandstone seen within the area. We posed for a group photo before heading back to the beach to look for fossils; a few of us were lucky enough to find large pieces of pyritized lignite coal with tree rings still visible, and a kind local showed us a piece of dinosaur bone she had discovered earlier.

Our final event for the day was looking at the famous Alum Bay Needles and multicoloured clays. Unfortunately by this point in the day the weather decided to turn against us, and a large bank of fog rolled in over the bay, which unfortunately meant the needles themselves were not visible! We decided to venture onto the beach at the base of the cliff instead to examine the vertical multicoloured clays in detail, and observe the clear unconformity here between these and the Cretaceous Chalk. A large amount of material had fallen off the cliff recently, so caution was taken; however this did give an excellent opportunity for fossil hunting. We walked all the way along the bay up to the Chalk, with our PhD student explaining the significance of the different beds as we came across them, as well as the structural evolution of the area and the major uplift events. After time spent noting details of the clays, we headed back up to the cliff top, and got back in the minibuses to head back to the ferry.

We eventually arrived back in our hostel in Portsmouth about 7pm, after which the committee cooked a fancy dress dinner for the rest of the group. During the dinner, the President of the DLB for the next year was announced, with the lucky winner being Stephen Watkins. In celebration, we headed out to experience Portsmouth's finest nightlife, before eventually crawling back into bed in the early hours of the morning.

SUNDAY:

We cleaned up the hostel and packed our bags early, before finally checking out at 11am. It was a short hour drive to Bognor Regis where we had an early Mothers' Day lunch at a local carvery. With our stomachs full, we ventured out onto the beach nearby to look for signs of Eocene clays, completing the top of the geological sequence we had observed whilst on the Isle of Wight. This beach is home to some rare fossils of insects from the Eocene, but unfortunately little was to be found, with the tide much higher than expected. We scouted for about an hour or so looking for traces of rock under the pebbles and sand before eventually getting back in the minibuses for the drive back to London. We arrived back at the RSM at approximately 5pm, allowing the second years to complete the coursework they had for the following morning.

Overall the trip was a resounding success and thanks to some careful time management whilst on the island we managed to fit in everything we intended to do in the allotted period. Many thanks are extended to Tom Barling and George Fisher, the DLB Fieldtrip Officers who planned the weekend; and especially to ICU Clubs and Societies for the funding used towards ferry costs, without the trip would have been nigh on impossible.



Imperial College Exploration Society

Winter Tour 2013 – Cogne, Italy

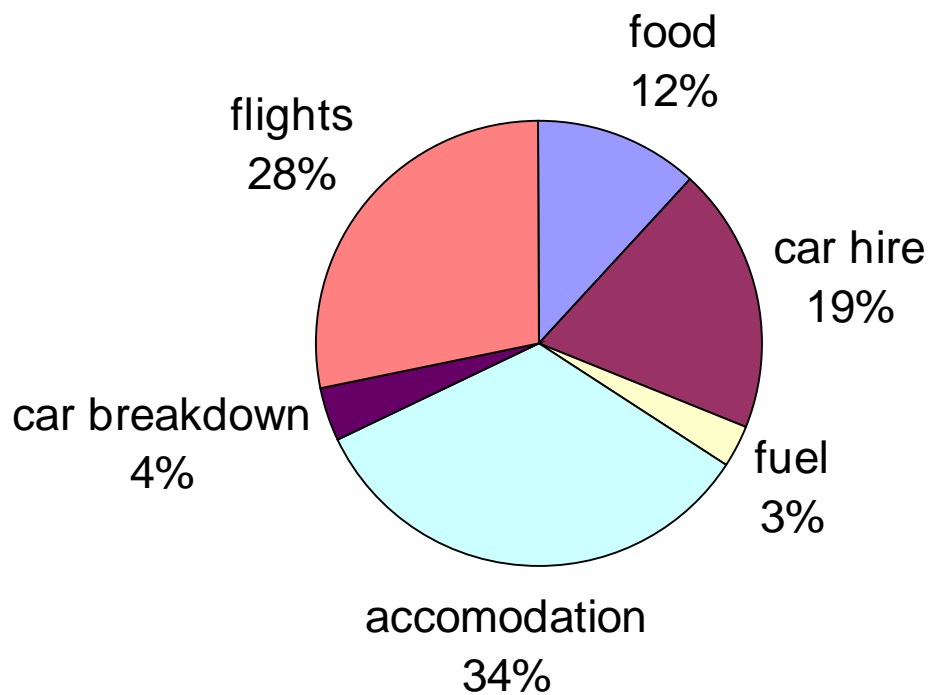
Dates

9th February 2013 – 17th February 2013

Attendees

1. Murray Cutforth
2. Tim Child
3. Roman Eudes
4. Sietse Braakman
5. Sara Arbos Torrent
6. Gemma Millman
7. Harriet Hillson
8. Veronique Mahue
9. Tim Seers

Finances



The total cost of the tour was £2900. We received £495 towards our travel costs from Imperial College Union. We were charged an extra 94 euros by Avis due to their car breaking down in the cold temperatures there, and then spent an additional 75 euros on train tickets to get back to the airport. The final cost of the tour per person was approximately £260.

Tour Diary

The 2013 Exploration Society winter tour was to the alpine village of Cogne, in northern Italy. The main activity of the tour was waterfall ice climbing, for which Cogne is a world-class venue. The valley has a perfect combination of low temperatures, very steep sides, and a large drainage area from the mountains above, meaning that every winter hundreds of frozen waterfalls appear. As well as ice climbing, we spent a significant amount of time skiing. Cogne offers downhill, cross-country, and touring, and we sampled all three.

Saturday 9th February

After a heinously early start, we all made it Gatwick with a minimum of drama. After way too many flights and connections, we finally arrived in Cogne in the early evening. Raring to go, we explored the town and found a frozen stream with small ice walls where we were able to practice ice climbing techniques.



Sunday 10th February – First day out

The tour kicked off with Murray and both Tims heading over to l'Acheronte, a 300m WI3+, perfect for getting back into the swing of things. After topping out at midday, they decided to attempt to

hike up to an alpine hut. This turned out to be a mistake, as they spent two hours wading through bottomless powder, and then had to abseil back down part of the route in the dark- good training! Meanwhile everyone else warmed up on a WI2, Fenilla, as well as the first pitch of Chandelle Leuvre.

Monday 11th February

Everyone but Murray and Sara headed over to the “training area” in Lilaz. In this area it was possible to set up top ropes, so everyone could practice ice climbing in a safe environment. They practiced multiple grade 3s. Murray and Sara attempted a long high level ski tour- However they found very deep powder on the way up which was pretty soul-destroying to ascend. After reaching a hut at 2500m they skied most of the way back to the hotel in Cogne.



Tuesday 12th February

On Tuesday, Sara Roman and Murray went piste skiing in Cogne. The well-groomed piste was a fantastic contrast to the heavy, wet powder they had endured the day before. Despite not skiing for the best part of a decade, Roman smashed it (boosted by a little dutch courage..). Everyone else climbed crollo di un mito, a grade 3 after wandering around on the valley floor for a while. The ice was thin in places on this route, and it featured a sketchy tree belay. For the most part in Cogne, ice routes had bolt & chain belays which were pretty bomber. Although our trad upbringing cringed at the sight of the occasional bolt placed right next to a perfectly protectable natural crack.



Wednesday 13th February

On Wednesday we split into 3 groups. Gemma decided to go cross country skiing around Cogne. Murray and Tim C headed up the valley to do Patri de Gauche, a WI4 and according to the guidebook, the most popular route in Cogne. This prediction came true, as despite an early start they were immediately overtaken by a guided team climbing monster 70m pitches. The climb was incredible however (see picture on the front page of this report) with steep smooth ice culminating in a claustrophobic Scottish-style gully. Everyone else went back to the training area in Lilaz, where they were able to practice ice climbing on a top rope. Harriet, Sara, Tim S, and Roman also managed to fit in an ascent of cascade de Lilaz.



Thursday 14th February

We were all sad to see Roman leave us on Thursday- he went to visit family in France. Seitse, Sara and Veronique drove over to Courmayeur on the French border, where they went off piste skiing with a mountain guide down some steep powder. Murray and Tim S did Chandelle Leuvre, an incredible WI4+. The picture below shows Tim leading the pitch below the very steep pillar. At its steepest, the pillar was slightly overhanging and Murray built up an epic pump on this section. Gemma and Harriet climbed cascade de Lilaz, WI3. On the steep pitch Gemma got into an awkward position and took a solid 5m fall- proving that ice screws really are more than just psychological protection.



Friday 15th February

Tim and Vero went cross country skiing on the trails around Cogne. Gemma, Sara and Harriet started up Sentiero Die Troll, an incredibly long WI3. After a bunch of amazing pitches the girls walked off half way up whilst they still had daylight. After a switch of objectives due to a lack of ice, Murray, Tim S and Seitse arrived at the bottom of Lilaz Gully WI4 M4+. Tim S led the first pitch, his first grade 4, and Murray led the M4+ pitch higher up which was a lot of fun. Murray and Tim S then raced over to cascade de Lilaz which they mostly climbed alpine style to complete a big day.



Saturday 16th February

As the last full day of the tour, Saturday was always going to be an epic day. Boris and Guillaume made a guest appearance, having popped over from Switzerland. They bumped into Vero, Tim S, and Murray underneath Thoulette, a WI4+. As had happened already a few times this week, the first pitch (normally a free standing pillar) was completely unformed, but they were able to traverse in directly below the second pitch. This was a beautiful 40m wall of steep, rolling ice. Unlike every other route in Cogne, we appeared to be the first team to do the route- there were no helpful hacked out placements here. After Boris and Murray dispatched this, we parted ways. Boris and Guillaume did Patri de Gauche WI4, whilst Murray and Tim wandered over to Sentiero Die Troll. Starting at about half past 3, they climbed and then abseiled about 12 pitches of WI3, finally getting off the route at 11pm and hitching a lift back with the Italian police. Epic. Meanwhile everyone else went piste skiing in Cogne, where Tim learnt from scratch.



Sunday 17th February

The tour came to an end with a thrilling 18 hour journey back across Europe. Adjusting to the real world again was unpleasant- Lab reports just don't have the same allure as climbing vertical water ice under blue skies.

Winter Tour 2012: Lake District — 14–19 December 2012

Day 1: The Journey

At the usual time of 1730hrs ten Fellwanderers met at the union to embark upon the annual Winter Tour, this year to the Lake District. After introductions, Matt and Ping on their first trip, discussion immediately turned to the anticipated freezing conditions — photos from the 2010 tour had been circulating and did not inspire confidence. An efficient packing of the minibus (including walking axes) meant we were soon heading north through Hyde Park.

Fortunately, the London traffic didn't prove too tortuous so we made good time along the M1. A supermarket stop near Birmingham allowed one vital aspect of the trip to be sourced — food! An ambitious 20 minute target to be back in the bus was not met but soon enough we were motoring north again. Approximately five hours later, the minibus arrived at *Thirlmere Recreation Hall*, complete with Christmas tree, where we would be staying for the trip.

The hall was reassuringly — not to mention surprisingly — warm so after unpacking the bus and sorting out the food, roll mats and sleeping bags were out and everyone bedded down for the night.

Day 2: Rain

To all those who have been on many Fellwanderers trips and suffered at the hands of the spreadless cheese and pickle sandwich, Saturday was a dream come true. In the lunch-preparation room, we found Claire cutting into a large joint of ham and butter on the table along with thick, seeded white bread.

Sandwiches made and fully waterproofed, we headed out into the rain surprised by the relative warmth of the morning. The walk started from the hall bearing due east through the *Stair Wood* and onto the ridge containing Wainwright's *High Tove* (515m), *Ambroth Fell* (479m), *High Seat* (608m), and *Bleaberry Fell* (590m).



The group on Bleaberry Fell with Derwent Water, Portinscale and Bassenthwaite Lake in the background (Taa Ruengsuksilp)

The going was fairly easy without much steep ascent but due to the recent heavy rain we feared spending the whole day walking through deep bogs. Fortunately, and to the intrigue of many, the bogs were mostly frozen giving the strange sensation of walking on something that should be soft

but is actually solid. Despite having two large lakes on either side of the ridge (*Derwent Water* and *Thirlmere* to the east and west, respectively) good views were few and far between as visibility was severely limited by low cloud cover and mist in the valleys.

The circular(ish) walk ended back at the hall just as the sun was going down. Dinner preparations were quickly underway for James' goulash with dumplings. The recipe had been attempted on a previous trip and turned out partially successful — the pitfall being the lack of scone-baking experience in the group. This time, there was no such trouble with Sarah in charge of dumping-making so, needless to say we ate, heartily leaving just enough room for a bread and butter pudding.

Day 3: Wainwrights

Sunday promised a long walk, navigated by Tom, to include ten Wainwrights in the North Western Fells — we knew this was going to be tough so started with a cooked English Breakfast. After a short drive from the hall to *Braithwaite* we found ourselves ascending steeply onto a horseshoe-ridge with eight of the peaks to be climbed during the day. Before too long the ascent was complete to take us onto *Grisedale Pike* (791m) and great views of the adjacent *Whinlatter Forrest Park* as well as the rest of the, mostly snow-topped, route.

We then continued along the first stretch of the ridge to bag *Hopegill Head* (770m) and *Whiteside* (707m), the latter providing an excellent view of *Crummock Water*. We then lost a lot height moving along the toe of the ridgeline followed by another steep ascent up to *Grasmoor* (852m). Unfortunately at this height the we were well and truly within the clouds, again restricting visibility but not dampening spirits. Continuing along this branch of the horseshoe we ascended *Crag Hill* (837m) and, with the sun low in the sky, *Sail* (773m).



On our way towards Whiteside (Taa Ruengsuksilp)

While coming down from *Sail* the path forked — one prong going down into the valley and the other continuing along the ridge. It was beginning to get dark (*entre chien et loup* we were told the French say) so this was the decision point: head back to the bus or carry on to two more Wainwrights? We agreed we had enough light to safely bag *Scar Crag* (672m) and *Causey Pike* (637m) so quickly made tracks. Many of the surrounding villages were illuminated by their street lights which made for a pretty landscape despite the low light levels.

The walk between *Causey Pike* into the valley felt very peaceful and we had just enough daylight to

ascend our final Wainwright of the day, *Outside* (568m). Unfortunately it was too dark to attempt *Barrow* (455m) so we proceeded, now in complete darkness with our headtorches on towards the lights of Braithwaite to collect the minibus.

We arrived back at the hall at about six o'clock shattered, having ascended 1600m during the course of the day.

Day 4: Rest or Run

Monday morning offered a simple choice — a gentle walk to recover from the previous day or to run 23miles over 11 Wainwrights. Sensibly the vast majority of the group chose the former and headed off towards *Conniston Water*, dropping off the runners along the way. This is the last we would see of them until the evening.



Looking into the valley on the rest day walk (Tom Wood)

After the walk we drove into *Keswick* where the group further split into those who fancied an afternoon shopping and tea drinking, and those who fancied a quick lap of *Derwent Water*. After stocking up with additional supplies the two groups made their way back to the hall to prepare the much anticipated roast dinner.

At about six thirty Jack and Charlie returned from their run covering *Glaramara* (783m), *Allen Crag* (785m), *Great End* (910m), *Esk Pike* (885m), *Bowfell* (902m), *Rossett Pike* (651m), *Pike of Stickle* (709m), *Loft Crag* (680m), *Thunacar Knott* (723m), and *High Raise*, (802m) so were unusually quiet for the rest of the evening! The roast beef with all the trimmings, including chestnuts, was served soon after and certainly lived up to expectation and left us all immobile once the Christmas pudding had also been demolished.

Day 5: Views and Singing

Tuesday morning started with a drive to a car park near *Conniston* to tackle another five Wainwrights in the Southern Fells. The walk started with a steep ascent with scrambling sections — the pinnacle set the tone for the rest the day. The sky was near cloudless providing stunning views of Morecambe bay in one direction and snow capped peaks in the other. Strangely, the snow on the fells made them seem much larger and more dramatic, more akin to an Alpine environment, than they actually are.



The group in taking a well-deserved break in a Keswick tea room (Taa Ruengsuksilp)

The route followed another ridge around *Levers Water* and *Low Water*. The going was mostly good though very undulating meaning the day was characterised by lots of ascent. First, and after many false summits, we were up *Weatherlam* (763m) and stopped for lunch in the sun — a rarity this year and made all the sweeter by roast beef sandwiches! Taking every opportunity to skate on the frozen lakes, we made our way towards *Swirl How* (802m) followed by *Brim Fell* (796m) and *The Old Man of Conniston* (803m). Here, it was possible to see both *Snowdon*, despite it being over 100miles away, and the *Isle Of Man*.



The group on The Old Man of Conniston (Taa Ruengsuksilp)

On the way to the final Wainwright of the day, *Dow Crag* (778m), the sun started to go down. The reddish-orange sky across the sea was magnificent with the lights on the *Isle of Man* looking as though the sea were on fire. The offshore windfarm only added to the picture. We descended down an old quarry road looking into this scenery which, I think, had a calming effect on us all.

Taa was in charge of the evening's dinner: a delicious Thai Green Curry. Just after dinner the village carol singers knocked on the hall door. We, of course, let them in and requested "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" followed by "Good King Wenceslas" and sang along with zest! It seemed a fitting event for our last night in the Lakes and left those from cities and abroad slightly bemused.



Singing along with the village carol group (Taa Ruengsuksilp)

Day 6: Final Wainwrights and Home

Having packed everything back into the minibus we drove to the start of our final walk in the Central Fells. Unfortunately, the weather had once again closed in meaning the views were quite limited especially at the peak summits. Nonetheless the walk was enjoyable and we notched up another four Wainwrights: *Helm Crag* (396m), *Gibson Knott* (420m), *Calf Crag* (537m), and *Blea Rigg* (541m).

We then all trooped into the bus and headed towards London after a thoroughly rewarding and entertaining five days walking in, arguably, the most beautiful landscapes England has to offer. In total we covered in excess of 100km horizontally 5km vertically, crossing 23 Wainwrights. A special thanks must go to Jack Redvers Harris for organising the trip, both logically and route planning, and James for coordinating dinner. Of course, we couldn't have gone anywhere without our drivers Claire and Sarah. I'm sure everyone would agree it was a pleasure to attend the tour and will be back for many more trips and tours!

MARK BRUGGEMANN

ICGC Winter Tour

Portmoak, Scotland.



Dates of Tour

From the 28th of December, 2012 to the 3rd of January, 2013.

Attendance

4 current Imperial students. (1 committee member)

2 Imperial alumni.

Tour Report

ICGC traditionally holds a tour to a UK ridge site each winter so that members can experience different types of soaring that we do not get at our home club, Lasham. However, for the last couple of years, there hasn't been a winter tour due to various reasons. So this year, determined to resurrect this tradition, we planned a 7 day tour to the Scottish Gliding Club, Portmoak, not far from Edinburgh. This is somewhere the club had been quite a few times in the past, and was ideally situated for ridge and sometimes wave lift. We took our Discus single seater, 296, and borrowed Edinburgh University's K21 training glider, already based at Portmoak. The best word to describe the trip would have to be 'wet', but we had a great time nonetheless...

The tour started bright and early on 28th December, with everyone meeting on Campus, apart from Tom who was towing 296 from Lasham. A rather long minibus journey entailed, through plenty of wind and rain. We stopped a few times on the way up, with the first sign of John Davey's (one of our ex-students, and drivers) arcade game addiction revealing itself at the first service station. Finally arriving at the airfield, we met Andy Cockerell, the other ex-student, and our instructor for the week. That evening, we visited Mr Chan's Chinese restaurant, in Kinross, as is also dictated by club tradition. After this, we headed back to the airfield bar, to chat to the locals, before turning in for the night.



John fails to retrieve a toy, despite 30 free attempts

We awoke bright and early on the 29th, ready for our first full day of the tour. However, when it eventually became light (Scotland's so far north that it takes a while), we were able to see just how much water was sitting on the airfield. Despite it just about being flyable weather, the locals judged the field to be too wet to fly from. We managed to rig 296 in a gap in the weather and put her in a spare space in the hanger, hopeful for better weather to come. Meanwhile John, our expert tour guide, suggested we visit the Tullibardine Whisky Distillery, near Perth. It was an interesting tour, although being a bunch of tight students, nobody actually bought any Whisky and instead opted for the Haggis Crisps. We then headed into Perth, to discover shops in Scotland are just the same as anywhere else. After a very nice meal in the Clubhouse, we went to watch 'Life of Pi' at the cinema in Dunfermline, which everyone seemed to enjoy. On returning, one of the locals proposed the 'Cinnamon Challenge', and John quickly accepted. Much to our disappointment, it appears a Maths degree and a Physics PHD stand you in good stead for swallowing a tablespoon of cinnamon.



The 'Cinnamon Challenge'

The next morning brought with it more wind and rain, which continued to leave the airfield waterlogged. Everybody spent the morning catching up on a bit of work (typical Imperial Students), apart from John who decided that he needed to go to the gym. We then ventured out for a walk across the airfield, and down to nearby Loch Lomond. Whilst walking through the many puddles, we discovered that Jack's shoes were definitely not waterproof, and that Johannes could in fact walk on water. For the evening, one of the locals recommended a small pub, not far from the airfield. It turned out to be a really nice place, and we even had our own room complete with fireplace. The food was great and we stayed for a few drinks as well, apart from the driver of course, before heading back to the airfield.



The airfield – Andy demonstrating a puddle

31st December, New Year's Eve, and quote of the morning went to Xiaoyu: "I'm trying to find the Sun. I know it's quite big, but I can't find it". With the weather still not flyable, a group of us decided to go for a trek up Bishop, the tallest of the ridges next to the airfield. Suitably booted, we started the ascent, stopping at a few of the traditional makeshift rope swings where Jack always seemed to make himself scarce. About an hour later, after taking the more 'scenic' steep route, and with a bit of sheep herding on the way, we reached the summit. With a brisk westerly, the wind was rushing up the side of the ridge, which definitely allowed some of our members to experience ridge lift for the first time, just without a glider. We took in the rather good view, including a rather wet airfield, before heading down and returning to the airfield. We ate at the airfield before preparing to head in to Edinburgh for the Hogmanay Festival. Keeping together was a challenge in the packed city centre,

but the atmosphere was intense and it was a great way to see in the New Year, with nobody drinking too much in case we flew the next day.



The ascent up Bishop



Experiencing ridge lift, minus the glider

2013 brought improved weather, and the 1st January looked promising. Eventually, some locals turned up and declared there was just about two dry lines that we could fly from – finally! The weather was a bit windy, but near perfect, with blue skies and a strong westerly blowing straight onto Bishop Ridge. Tom and Andy flew first to clear Tom to fly from the site, and subsequently, John did the same – also managing to break the only cable of the day! The ridge lift was great, working above 2000’ and allowing flights to be as long as we wanted. Everyone else then took it in turns to fly with Andy, whilst Tom flew 296. With the last flights landing at Sunset, everybody had managed at least 35 minutes in the air, all of which was spent learning to soar the ridge, and Tom had managed nearly 3 hours in total. Unfortunately, there was no wave lift to be found near to the site, but it still made for a new and exciting type of flying compared to Lasham. Flying often less than a wingspan away from the face of rocks, feeling the updrafts and following the contours was simply great fun. With longer flight times compared to Lasham, everybody was also able to spend time improving their flying skills. That evening, we went bowling in Dunfermline, although this soon resulted in John feeding his arcade game addiction. The quote of the day again goes to Xiaoyu. Having consumed about two pints of Strongbow in the club bar, “Oh, this is alcoholic, I didn’t realise”.



The launch point – Edinburgh Uni’s K21 & 296. Bishop ridge in background



The Sun sets on a good days flying

The 2nd January was the final full day of the tour, and unfortunately the good weather for the year appeared to be over. In a brief gap between the rain showers, we were able to thoroughly clean both gliders and pack 296 back into the trailer, ready for the journey home. We all settled our accounts, before heading to the local curry house in Kinross for the final meal. Having not disappointed so far, John duly accepted the ‘omelette’ challenge proposed by Douglas, one of the locals who joined us. This involved having to order a rather large omelette and chips main meal for the starter – something they soon regretted. The food was good though, and Xiaoyu won the award for eating the most chillies. This was duly rewarded with a beer, but a non-alcoholic one this time.

An early start to the final day ensured that we were underway by about 7.30, well except for Tom who got half an hour away before realising he still had his room key. Despite the fact everybody knows that it is downhill on the way back home, the journey wasn’t any quicker. However, about 8 hours later, we were back in London.

Overall, the weather on tour was pretty disappointing, with only one flyable day. Having said that, most airfields around the country were in the same situation and had been for weeks. Despite this, everybody had good fun, got to know each other a bit more, and saw some of the sights of Scotland. On the day we did get to fly, not only did everybody thoroughly enjoy the ridge flying, a completely new experience for most, but the flights were longer and more productive than we would have

managed at our home club. In this respect, the aims of the tour were met. The tour passed without incident, and nobody drank excessively due to the possibility of flying the next day. The smooth running was partly helped by the fact that both John and Andy had prior knowledge of the area, and that there were many attractions close by for when we were not able to fly. Thanks especially go to Andy for instructing and to John and Johannes for taking turns to drive. Thanks also to Edinburgh Uni for lending us their glider. Here's hoping next year's Winter Tour will be even better!

Improvements for the future:

This tour has been repeated many times by our club in the past and is therefore a relatively routine event. As a consequence, the organisation of the tour was relatively easy and the execution was quite pain-free. Attendance was a little disappointing, despite plenty of notice and advertising. One student, who was due to attend, also had to pull out at the last minute due to personal reasons. Hopefully, now that we have run a winter tour again, more people will be keen to join in next year – and as always we will try to find the best dates to suit everyone. It would obviously have been nice to bring our own 2 seat glider, but nobody was available to tow it, and so borrowing a glider was a good alternative (and cheaper in hindsight, due to the weather).

Financial state of the Tour

Students paid for their accommodation at the airfield their food bills and their launch fees – with transportation being paid for by their tour tickets and supported by the club. The club also subsidised the soaring fees of our members, since we were unable to bring our own 2 seat glider to Portmoak.

Ticket income: £ 470

Funding from IC Trust: £ 248.57

Fuel (minibus): £ 248.03

Fuel (car): £ 172.59

Minibus hire: £ 434.00

Soaring fees subsidy (students only): £ 23.22

Total: £ -159.27

The club feels that this was a good use of SGI to subsidise the trip. Had the weather been more flyable, fuel costs would probably have been lower.

Japanese Society Winter Tour 2013

Gasshuku, the Japanese word for intense practice excursion, took place in Brighton this year during the first weekend of February (1st-3rd Feb). 18 members of various year groups and nationalities played different roles in the tour to ensure the practice for our annual performance in International Night (9th Feb) is at its best possible standard. (I-Night is a variety show organised by the Overseas Student Committee (OSC) which aimed to show the diversity of cultures within Imperial College and it has been part of Imperial College Japanese Society's tradition to deliver an extraordinary pantomime in this cultural event.

Aims & Objectives

The main objective of Gasshuku was to allow members of Japanese Society to concentrate and practice for the International Night (9th Feb). In addition, though interactive games organised by senior members, we hoped to forge strong relationships between year groups and seek for potential leaders of the society in the near future.

Tour Diary

1st Feb (Friday)

After college, we gathered up at Victoria coach station to take the coach to Brighton. The journey to Brighton took ~2hrs; everyone was too excited and couldn't stop chatting on the way. We arrived at around 8pm but immediately faced a problem: how to get to the accommodation.

After a few minutes of discussions, we decided that it would be most efficient if 3 of the senior members take in charge of the entire luggage and travel to the accommodation by taxi first whilst the rest walked to the supermarket and bought the essentials (e.g. food, toiletries and cleaning products etc.)



By the time things were settled and dinner was finished, it was already midnight and everyone was getting a bit tired therefore we took a rest and prepare for next day.

Japanese curry rice – It was not an easy task to cook for 18 people!

2nd Feb (Saturday)

With I-night literally a week away, most of us woke up at ~5am early morning (never happened to myself on a normal Saturday morning!) and decided that it was a good chance to see the sunrise near the seaside. Despite the weather report predicting cloudy and possible rainfall, Saturday dawned bright and sunny. After a fabulous start of the day, the I-night performers, mostly consisting of 1st year students, started their intensive practice. Past I-Night performers helped the directors by

giving tips on students' acting techniques and by improving gestures to ensure the characters' feelings could be understood convincingly by the audience. The integrated dance was practiced repeatedly with the use of video feedback so that the performers could see what they needed to improve on.

Whilst the 1st years were out practicing, the senior members of the club prepared breakfast to ensure the performers were well fed and cleaned the rented accommodation to keep it in good condition.



What a way to start off the day!

*Afternoon practice – photo showing the 1st years practicing a dance originated from AKB48 – Heavy rotation**

*AKB48 is a Japanese girls group, one of the most popular pop-singers/dancers in Japan



(Left) Saturday sunset (Right) one of the interactive games after 1-night practice – Dodge ball

3rd Feb (Sunday)

After one final rehearsal, although unwilling, we had to pack-up. All 18 participants helped in cleaning the house before leaving to catch the afternoon coach back to London.

Summary

Although some difficulties arose with the high costs for students and seeking for accommodation but otherwise, the Winter Tour was a great success. In line with the Japanese Society's constitution, Japanese culture was promoted via the I-Night pantomime and by the fact that some of the tour participants were neither Japanese nor do they speak the language; they were however delighted to be part of it and have become close friends of ours. Through the rigorous practices which immensely increased the quality of the act and the teamwork within the group, we achieved our aims for the tour and gained an insight into personalities of our new members. It has been a truly unforgettable experience for all of us and following the success of our first ever tour last year, we hope that this tour will continue to be an annual success in the coming years.

Lastly, would like to thank the IC Trust for financially supporting us and the committee of Japanese Society for organising, making this Winter Tour 2013 possible.



(Left) Preparing for dinner. (Right) Shoki - One of the photographers

Financial Breakdown

Income (£)		Expenditure (£)	
IC Trust Travel Grant	127.29	Accommodation	780.00
Members Contribution	789.50	Travel	178.40
Club Contribution	474.23	Food & Drinks	432.62
		Total	1391.02

ICMC Winter Tour 2012

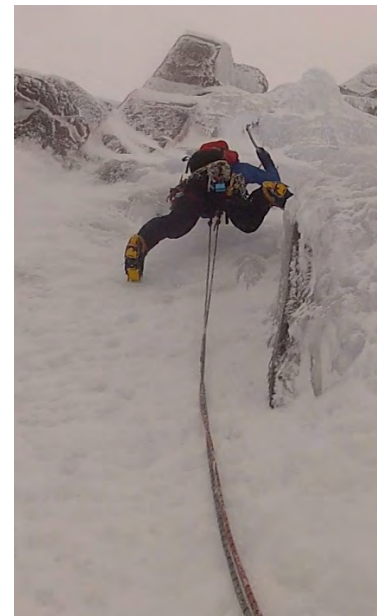


The trip started with a promisingly early beginning with the bus leaving at 8am. After an unusually uneventful drive we arrived early at the accommodation and as such were unequipped to deal with dinner. An early search party set off in search of takeaway, unfortunately the chip shop was closed, but further trekking revealed a Tesco's selling microwave pizzas. There was much rejoicing.

The next day began with Aviemore's finest in winter safety instruction, the mighty Kevin, arriving to talk the novices through their first day in the mountains. Meanwhile, the passion wagon, plus Hamzah, had already packed camp and headed for the snow. The main party followed in hot pursuit, eventually meeting them in the bottom of the coire. Kevin promptly got the novices running about in the snow learning the gentlemen's rules of a snowball fight, how to ice axe arrest, move on ice and snow and how to judge snow conditions incase they are dangerously yellow. Hamzah, Ruth and Fresher set off on their siege attempt of Invernookie (III) and Tom, Ben and Kip began what they believed to be Fingers Ridge (IV) but after Ben spent 2 hours leading a pitch by the seat of his pants it became evident that this was in fact not the case. After a quick reconsideration, the group bravely ran away, away to Red Gully (III) on the right before the ground steepened and became a crux pitch of what turned out to be Fingers Ridge Direct (VII). The main party reconvened at the car park and headed home to construct a dish resembling a pasta carbonara and were eventually joined by the Invernookie team. There was much rejoicing.

On the second day, Kevin was met at the car park and the novices set off to do their first route, Aladdin's Couloir (I) and much fun was had. Tom, Ben and Kip set off to try Aladdin's mirror direct (IV), with Tom dispatching the crux ice pitch in his standard visually pleasing manor. Team snow hole +1 went to do the Runnel (II) and, after Hamzah pretended to be a sledge for a bit, abseiled back down and responsibly had Hamzah checked over by a mechanic to have the dents beaten out. After it was made apparent that all was well, chili was consumed by all, and there was much rejoicing.

Having completed their instruction, it was time for the novices to shed the surly bonds of snow and get on the rock. After a pre dawn walk in and it becoming apparent that John and Knut are in fact powered by uranium, Tom and Ben bravely lead two novices each (Knut, Jo, Joel and John) up Hidden Chimney (III). This was a successful venture with both teams topping out at around midday. These were soon joined by Kip and Tim (whose name is Tim) who had successfully lead the Runnel (II) and retrieved the gear and axes left by the previous days tobogganing. As the weather was so glorious, and the day was but young, an ascent of Cairngorm was devised. Pairs geared up and battled up the tough 40° incline. Once summited people became happy, then naked, then happy. Fresher, Hamzah and Ruth had a rest day. There was much rejoicing.



Appealing indeed: Tom Leading on Aladdin's Mirror Direct



About time: ICMC actually walking in in the dark

Winter skipped spring and summer and became autumn and conditions become unclimbable. A team of elite connoisseurs ventured to the Tomatin distillery car park, and eventually visitor's centre. Once all the available knowledge and whisky had been absorbed a historically accurate roast dinner of biblical proportion was made and consumed followed by enough pudding to fill an ant the size of a house. There was much rejoicing.

As the weather was still awful, a trip to Newtyle Quarry was commissioned. After some dry tooling and the invention of the crampon smear and running man techniques, it was determined that the weather was indeed awful. The trip bravely ran away, away to the pub. After some cracking nosh and a pint or two the trip reconvened back at the house. A game of hide and seek later and diner was ready. People became hungry, then happy, then full. The following events that followed were a bit too much like

fun to be mentioned in a Scottish winter report, needless to say that several ventured to Aviemore's finest after dinner amusement, The Vault (VI). There was much rejoicing.

Friday came and still the bad weather persisted. Some people went shopping, then some other people went shopping. Later, after hours of graft, Tim invented the snowball cocktail. Some people watched TV, someone did some work, some people talked of how they should do work. Eventually a traditional Christmas dinner of spaghetti bolognese was eaten and it was time for the ICMC secret Santa. People became happy, then thankful, then Joel became sad. There was much rejoicing.

On Sunday we left. There was much rejoicing.

EXPENDITURE	
Reason	Amount
Accommodation Cost	-£ 750.00
Course cost	-£ 360.00
Glasgow shopping	-£ 302.24
Minibus cost	-£ 530.00
Fuel Lancaster	-£ 30.00
Fuel Glasgow	-£ 89.24
Fuel Aviemore	-£ 103.83
Fuel Sheffield	-£ 95.51
Fuel Bayswater	-£ 40.00
Aviemore shopping	-£ 21.57
TOTAL	-£ 2,322.39

INCOME	
Reason	Amount
Members Accommodation Contribution	£ 750.20
Members Course Contribution	£ 175.00
Members Food Contribution	£ 352.00
Members Transport Contribution	£ 680.00
Subsidy	£ 403.32
TOTAL	£ 2,360.52



Imperial College Outdoor Club

Winter Tour 2012/2013 – Aviemore, Scotland

Dates

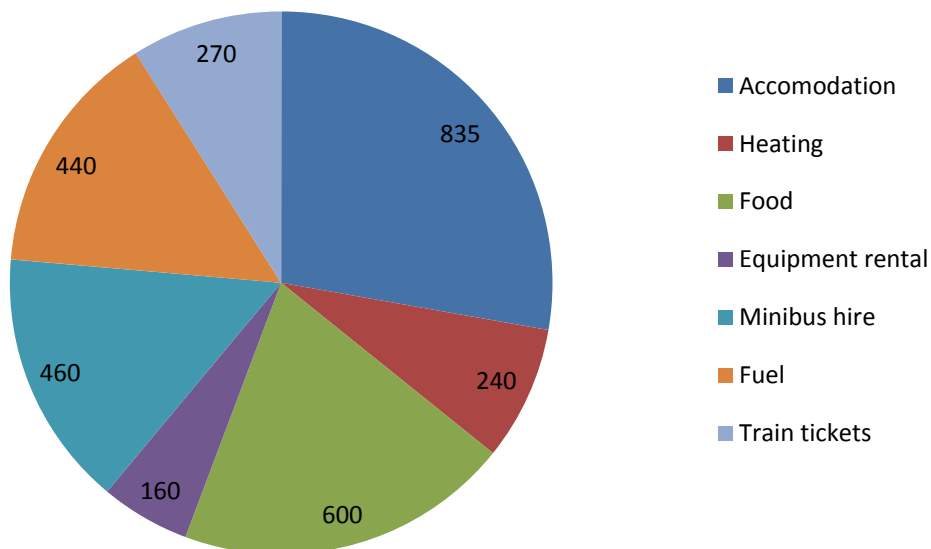
15th December 2012 – 23rd December 2012

Attendees

1. Ryan Perkins
2. Harry Milner
3. Phillip Leadbeater
4. Harriet Hillson
5. Ed Murfitt
6. Christina Smith
7. Murray Cutforth
8. Rob McVey
9. Chew Hong Rui (Ray)
10. Ben Trubshaw
11. Jennifer Zheng
12. Su Yang
13. Ian Desouza
14. Ula Stopka-Farooqui

Finances

Expenditure



The total expenditure was £3005. The total income was £2100 member contributions and £700 funding from Imperial College. Altogether, there was a £200 shortfall this year, which was mainly due to the need to rent boots for 4 people. Normally we do not need to rent any equipment.

Tour Diary

This year the Outdoor Club headed up to the Cairngorms in Scotland for our annual winter tour. As a club we take part in a wide range of activities, but the main purpose of the tour was to get some Scottish winter climbing done. This is a distinct form of climbing which involves the ascent of routes comprised of snow, ice, neve, rock and frozen turf, often while covered in a layer of powder snow. There are also the challenges of short daylight hours, Scottish (i.e. crap!) weather conditions, avalanche risk and navigation to contend with. During the tour we also went hiking, skiing, mountain biking and running.

Saturday 15th December – The long journey up

We made an early start, meeting in stores at 7 o'clock and leaving about one hour later after packing the bus relatively rapidly. The drive up to Scotland never gets any shorter, but after a full day of being subjected to Phil's 90s dance music collection we made it to Aviemore. We were staying in a spacious Scandinavian-style wooden lodge in Badaguish, shown below.



The kitchen and dining area of our lodge

Sunday 16th December – First day out

Everyone was raring to go after the drive on Saturday, and we split into 3 main groups. The first group spent the day skiing at the Cairngorm ski centre, and had a great day despite the weekend crowds. Murray and Rob headed into Coire an T-Sneachda and dispatched "The Opening Break", grade III, without any drama. Ed and Chris completed "The Slant", II. Meanwhile Phil took a group over to Lurcher's crag where they soloed a grade I gully and spent some time practicing self-arrests.



Ryan practicing his breakdancing

Monday 17th December

On Monday we had booked the services of a mountain guide – John Lyall. John’s name is on practically every page of the guidebook to this area, and he has done some incredibly gnarly first ascents in Scotland. He took a group of 6 out to the hills, where they went over belays and protection on Scottish winter routes. As well as guiding, John volunteers with the mountain rescue, so he was full of stories about what could happen if things go wrong!

Meanwhile, Murray took a group on a hike up to the summit of Cairngorm. We had fairly typical Scottish conditions (zero visibility, strong winds, and deep snow) so it was a perfect introduction to the Scottish highlands in winter!



Mobility becomes a struggle as we hike directly up into the wind

Tuesday 18th December

Tuesday was both the best and worst day of the tour. Firstly the good stuff: the weather was absolutely perfect. We enjoyed sub-zero temperatures with almost no wind and cloud for most of the day, resulting in some spectacular views!



One of many incredible pictures taken by Ian, Su and Jennifer of the cloud inversion

Ian, Su and Jennifer went hiking above the lodge. They were lucky enough to experience a cloud inversion, as shown above. Meanwhile, everyone else went climbing around Cairngorm mountain, enjoying the perfect conditions. Harriet, Rob and Ben's attempt on "Spiral Gully", II, ended when they strayed onto harder terrain and decided to abseil off. Murray Ryan and Ray had an epic day, walking over the top of the plateau to Hell's Lum crag. The long walk in was worth it, as they found the crag deserted. After some scary leading with a distinct lack of protection, they topped out on the classic grade IV "Hell's Lum". Ray was turning out to be a bit of a beast, and he had no problem getting up this grade IV to complete his first ever winter climb.

Now to the bad news: Phil was leading a grade IV on the other side of Cairngorm called "Anvil Gully". When he reached the top of the route, he found a horrendous top-out: the strong winds had created a large cornice, with near-vertical soft powder snow below. This is a climber's worst nightmare, as powder is no fun to climb up and virtually impossible to protect. As he was attempting to dig through the cornice, a foothold collapsed and Phil fell approximately 40m. After such a long fall, Harry and Ula decided to call the mountain rescue in. Luckily, after a helicopter ride to Inverness hospital it turned out that Phil hadn't sustained any serious injuries and he was released later that night.



Amazing climbing on Hell's Lum (IV) on Tuesday. Murray leading.

Wednesday 19th December

On Wednesday the weather finally broke. We attempted to walk in to Coire an T-Sneachda for some climbing, but physically couldn't make progress against the gale-force winds. After an hour of struggle, and after contemplating how bad it would be higher up, we turned back and retreated to the van. Later that day head chef Ryan created a delicious Christmas dinner, and with more bad weather forecasted for the next day no one was holding back on the beers!

Thursday 20th December

With winds of up to 100mph on the Cairngorm plateau we didn't even try to do any climbing, so Thursday was a bit of a rest day. Everyone got a bit of cabin fever from the lack of climbing, and as a result we started attempting to cross a set of gymnastic rings hanging over a freezing pond outside the lodge! At this point I have to make a shout out to Rob and Ben who were persuaded to jump straight into the next pond over, which was actually iced over!



The result of cabin fever

Friday 21st December

The bad weather was unrelenting, so on Friday we spend the day either mountain biking or walking at low levels. Ray confirmed his status as a beast by breaking 2 separate rental bikes! Ryan and Harriet ventured above the treeline on their walk, and confirmed that the wind was still insane. In the words of the mountain weather forecast, mobility at higher levels was “tortuous”. Meanwhile, the mountain bikers did find some great technical downhill sections in the forest around the lodge.

Saturday 22nd December

The wind finally dropped slightly today, just enough to allow the possibility of some climbing. A big group set off from the car park early in the morning. Unfortunately, due to the large amount of fresh snow, the avalanche risk was significant and after assessing the steep snow slopes below the cliffs, we decided that trying to ascend them was not worth the risk. On the plus side, this did provide a great opportunity to practice avalanche tests. We then retreated to the bottom of the slope and spend the rest of the day tunnelling into the snow, eventually creating a shelter big enough for all 9 of us!

Sunday 23rd December

Not much to report about today. Just as the weather and avalanche conditions finally turned in our favour we had to leave Scotland, which is pretty typical! Sunday was spend in the minibus, with only Phil’s 90s dance to keep the drivers going.



Avalanche block test. The layer of fresh snow slid off the old snow in a textbook windslab avalanche.



The Imperial College String Ensemble went on tour to Glastonbury from 8th to 10th February 2013 to rehearse intensively, perform at a concert, socialize and build a tight group, and visit the local area of South West of England.

Tour finance expected

Financial Status

Tour budget

Estimated attendance : 18 members

Variable income	Description	Unit price	Units	Net
Ticket income	Student ticket	£55,00	18	£990
Fixed income	Description	Unit price	Units	Net
Union subsidy	Subsidy	£165,19	1	£165,19
TOTAL				£1155,19

Variable expenditure	Description	Unit price	Units	Net
Consumables	Food	£8,00	18	£144
Fixed expenditures	Description	Unit price	Units	Net
Instructor costs	Conductor fees	£50	1	£50
Travel expenditure	Minibus hire 15 seater	£242,00	1	£242,00

Travel expenditure	Minibus petrol 15 seater	£100	1	£100
Travel expenditure	Minibus hire 9 seater	£210,00	1	£210
Travel expenditure	Minibus petrol 9 seater	£80	1	£80
Ground hire	Accomodation at Paddington Farm Trust	£300	1	£300
Deductions	Travel deductions	£25	1	£25
TOTAL				£1151

Balance with 19 attendees : £4,19

Tour finance actual (from Union finance pages)

Attendance

18 members : 11 violonists, 2 violas, 3 violas, 1 double base, 1 conductor (conducting scholar)

Because of the snow our trip had to be cancelled in the last minute and rescheduled to 3 weeks later, obliging one person in total, as well as our usual conductor, to turn down their attendance because of short notice. We left conducted by our conducting student scholar.

Variable income	Description	Unit price	Units	Net
Ticket income	Student ticket	£55,00	18	£990
Fixed income	Description	Unit price	Units	Net
Union subsidy	Subsidy	£165,19	1	£165,19
TOTAL				£1155,19

Variable expenditure	Description	Unit price	Units	Net
Consumables	Food	£140,1	1	£140,1
Fixed expenditures	Description	Unit price	Units	Net
Instructors	Payment to conductor	£180	1	£180
Travel expenditure	Minibus hire 15 seater	£242,00	1	£242,00
Travel expenditure	Minibus petrol 15 seater	£69,94	1	£69,94
Travel expenditure	Minibus hire 9 seater	£210,00	1	£210
Travel	Minibus petrol 9	£72,76	1	£72,76

expenditure	seater			
Ground hire	Accommodation at Paddington Farm Trust	£300	1	£300
Bills*	Minibus 9 seater repair	£255,08	1	£255,08
Deductions**	Travel deductions	£25	1	£25
TOTAL				£1494,88

* On our way back from Glastonbury St Benedicts church to Imperial College the 9-seater minibus has had an accident, and we lost the left-side mirror.

** Travel deductions apply for one attendee, who came to Glastonbury on his own and did not use the minibus service arranged by the committee.

Balance with 18 attendees : - £339,69

Balance without the conductor's fees : -£159,69

ICSE receives from the Music centre a specific grant to pay the conductor, so this money was used for the purpose of paying our official conductor the extra fees that were not planned on the expected finance report in the first place. Therefore the actual loss on the tour budget to be considered is £159,69. The only reason for that loss is the unlucky accident we have had on our way back from Glastonbury to London. Else the tour would have ended with a positive balance of + £93,39.

For this tour, ICSE was allocated a travel grant of 35,76% of its expected £462 of travel expenditure. From the tour finance actual it is clear that ICSE has spent £594,7 on travel expenditure, which means the funds allocated were exhausted and used fully for the purpose of travelling.

Aims & Objectives

We satisfied our aims:

- Rehearsals : With one piece out of 4 being new to most attendees to learn in 2 days, we rehearsed intensively on location at the farm. On the concert day a full morning's rehearsal was dedicated to final concert preparations at the farm and in the church.
- Cultural experience : When not rehearsing, we spent a lot of time exploring the cultural offerings available in Glastonbury. We visited the rural life museum, the natural reserve of Westhay moor and walked to Glastonbury Tor. In the evening we went to a local pub, the oldest of the city centre.
- Concerts: we performed our concert for free, which was also professionally recorded and broadcast several times on Glastonbury FM radio, at St Benedict's Church on the Sunday. We performed Haendel's *Concerto Grosso*, Telemann's *L'Omphale Overture*, Grieg's *Holberg Suite*, Sibelius' *Romance op 42*.
- Bringing together the community : Our concert provided a unique opportunity to bring together a wide cross-section of the community, from the younger crowd to the town's older lovers of classical music. The fact it was free gave us the opportunity to show people who are

not familiar with classical music and who would not have payed to attend to come and discover our repertoire.

- Bringing together the attendees: Through making meals together, eating at the farm house, playing games at the farm house and living together in general, members tied stronger bonds and also built their network as there were some alumni among us.
- Broadcast on local and internet radio : The concert recording by GFM resulted in a our long radio programme being broadcast three times between 22-25th February. It features the full concert recording plus interviews with the conductor, committee members, ensemble members and audience. The concert should be available on our website soon.
- Charity fundraising : Although the entry to the concert was free, donations were encouraged to support both the new orchard plantation and recreational activities of the Paddington Farm Trust and the young conductor scholarship of ICSE.
We ended up raising £160, bringing £60 to contribute to our young conductor's conducting lessons.

Day by day account of activities

Friday 8th February

6:00pm	Meet outside Beit entrance	Beit Hall entrance
9:00pm	Arrive at Paddington Farm, Glastonbury	Paddington Farm
10:00pm	Eat dinner	
10:15pm	Team games, Articulate etc	
11:30pm	Relax/Sleep	

Saturday 9th February

9:00am	Cooked breakfast	Paddington Farm
10:30am	Walk to the Tor	
12:00am	Rehearsal	
1:00pm	Lunch	
2:00pm	Rehearsal	
4:00pm	Visit of the rural life museum	
5:00pm	Westhay moor reserve	
6pm	Rehearsal	
8pm	Dinner	
9pm	Pub/relax at the farm (choice)	
11:30am	Relax/Sleep	

Sunday 10th February

9am	Cooked breakfast is served	
10:30	Rehearsal	Paddington Farm
11am	Rehearsal	St Benedict Church
1:30am	Concert	
3pm	2 course pub/lunch	King Arthur Pub

After lunch Leave Glastonbury
9pm Arrive back in London Beit Hall entrance

Major Issues

The first issue with organizing the tour was the **weather**, the snow obliged us to cancel the first tour on January 18th. Some rehearsals were rescheduled on the first weekend within Imperial College South Kensington campus and a big dinner social was organized in the last minute. We tried to reschedule the trip however. Finally an agreement was met with Paddington Farm House to defer the trip by some weeks without paying additional fees. However, we have had to pay our conductor for his commitments on that weekend and sadly he could not be available for the second planned trip.

The second issue is a **financial issue** due mainly to the bill for the repair of the minibus that was damaged during the accident that occurred on our way back. Fortunately ICSE has ensured that there is always enough money in the accounts for this kind of unexpected circumstances and can afford to pay back the repair and can afford the loss at this stage.

ACTION: Always have enough money to compensate for unexpected expenses.

Also, we originally estimated the conductor's fee with regard to what has been estimated in the past, but ended up paying him (Dan Shilladay, our official conductor) the sum he would have been paid for his activities had he stayed in London, this is £180.

ACTION: Agree on the conductor's fees with the conductor as a compensation of what he would have done in London had he not come on tour with us, and discuss it with him before tour payments have been made.

Did the tour achieve its aims & objectives?

The tour exceeded its aim and objectives once again, as we rehearsed very intensively, bringing standards high up. Thankfully even though the dates were agreed in the last minute for the rearranged tour, many attendees could make it and we managed to replace people who could no longer attend by people who couldn't attend on the first tour. This also shows the members' commitment to ICSE and is a very good indicator of their enthusiasm for ICSE.

Having started into broadcast media last year, we carried on as we had planned to do, achieving our goals once again. What differed from previous tours is that we aimed at making profit for our conductor scholarship as well as raising money for charity. This also has been achieved as we managed to gather a sufficient amount of money to pay our scholar 2 to 3 hours of professional conducting lessons.

Overall the tour was enjoyed by all, giving international Freshers the chance to explore the English countryside and older members to discover it too or rediscover some new local activities proposed.

As we went conducted by our scholar, it was for him a first opportunity to conduct a full concert, and everyone accepted the challenge and worked towards making the best of it!



Imperial College
String Ensemble



Lunchtime Charity Concert

St. Benedict's Church
Benedict Street, Glastonbury

Sunday 10th February 2013
1:30pm

Grieg
Holberg Suite

Handel
Concerto Grosso

Telemann
L'Omphale Overture

Sibelius
Romance Op 42

RAISING FUNDS TO
PLANT A NEW
ORCHARD!



Paddington Farm Trust is a small local charity based on an organic farm providing educational and recreational holidays for children and families from disadvantaged urban areas. They also offer work experience and vocational training opportunities for young people from Glastonbury and the surrounding areas.

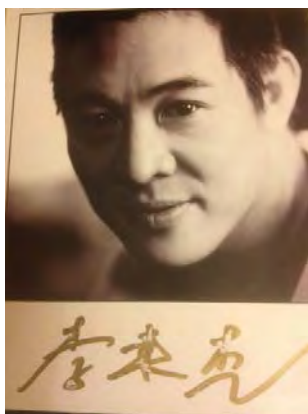
www.paddingtonfarm.co.uk

Thank you for giving generously.

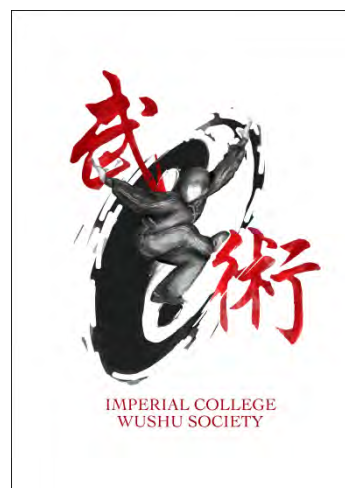
Imperial College Wushu Society Manchester Seminar

At the end of the term last month, when most Imperial students were drinking themselves into stupor to celebrate the end of classes for the year or queuing up to catch the opening night of the Hobbit, a group of 13 dedicated members of the Imperial College Wushu Society were boarding a train to Stockport, Manchester. Why? Because Master Chen De Qing had agreed to host a seminar just for IC Wushu.

For those of you that don't know Wushu literally translated means Chinese martial arts. The style that IC Wushu Society practices is largely modern Wushu, which emphasizes forms (taolu) more than fighting, although the forms do have basis in movements used in combat. The most famous Wushu practitioner is Jet Li, with Jackie Chan coming in a close second. In a way, Wushu is like a martial arts dance, which requires head-touching-toe flexibility (in an ideal world) but also the strength to do aerials (no handed cartwheels) and endurance to stay in low stances.



Signed Jet Li photo, especially signed for Imperial College Wushu Society.



Which is why, in our quest to improve our Wushu, we trekked up to Manchester to be trained by Master Chen De Qing, a 5 times national University champion of China and head instructor of Jin Long Chinese Martial Arts Academy. . The agenda included working on the Shaolin Longfist form, Sanda (Chinese kickboxing, which is a contact martial art), and miscellaneous Wushu basics (kicks, jumps, stances).

The trip was by no means limited to those that lived and breathed Wushu. Some of us were complete beginners, others had trained in China for a couple months, while the majority of us were just practicing intermittently with IC Wushu Society. The crowd also ranged from first year Imperial students, to those who were now proper "adults" with full time jobs.

As such, the odd assortment of 13 set off on a train to Stockport on Friday night. After some adventures (two people failing to get off with the rest of the group), we all arrived at the bed-and-breakfast at around 11:00 pm, which was owned by an elderly couple. Each room had its own oddities – one room had a bath but no shower, another room was so small it could only fit a twin bed, and a lucky few had very cozy rooms with comfortable singles and fully-functioning showers. It was by no means luxury accommodation, but cozy and comfortable enough for most.



Having a look around our accommodation!

The first day of training started bright and early with breakfast at 8:30am. Breakfast was a bit of a disappointment unfortunately– we had been expecting eggs and sausages, but we ended up having cereal and toast (which we ate lots of). We then headed over to the Jin Long Academy, which was in a kindergarten gym, via the local public bus. We were watching students of the Academy take their annual exam (ages ranging from 3 to 17 years old), and some of us ended up snoozing a little (not to say the kids weren't adorable, we were just really tired). We then had lunch (Mr. President's mom cooked us a lovely lunch, much nicer than the breakfast we had), and after a 30 minute break started training.



Master Chen leading us in learning a Shaolin fighting form!

The training was really good. We went through the basic warm-up (jogging, some warm-up jumps, loose kicks), and then went into drills and jumps. Front kick, side kick, inside then outside kick, front slap kick, butterfly jumps, and on it went. Master Chen gave us some critique along the way, which was helpful, and then taught us the first half of the Shaolin Longfist form. All in all we trained from around 3 pm to 6 pm, which is not insignificant although it would have been a better use of time to train early in the morning and use the Academy's student examinations as resting time to recuperate for the afternoon session.

Dinner was wonderful. We went to a Sichuan place in Manchester (an hour bus ride from the training centre) and wolfed down everything in sight. It was a wonderful treat after a hard day of training. After a couple hours walking around Manchester, in search for dessert (we settled on Tesco) and looking for the bus stop (Mr. Present's mom had to walk us there), we headed home and conked out.

The next day we headed out a little later and started training at around 11 am. Most of us were pretty sore from the day before, so after a quick warm up Master Chen taught us the basics of Sanda, which feels very different from Wushu. While Wushu is more of a performance sport and about sticking the chest out and keeping the arms and legs straight, Sanda is more practical which meant stances which felt more comfortable. After an hour and a half of Sanda we learnt the second half of the Shaolin Longfist form, which was much harder to retain than the first half. We had been invited to the Jin Long Academy's Christmas party, which was to start later in the evening, so we had about an hour and a half to practice on the wonderful carpet and/or rest.

The Christmas party was nice – Master Chen's students and their families came together and brought lots of food, but which we did not touch until the end of the Wushu and talent show (performed by Master Chen's students and IC Wushu Society!). To be completely honest I would have preferred to skip the talent show and catch the train home, which some of us did, but the talent show and dinner part was still entertaining nonetheless.



Learning some Sanda/Chinese Kickboxing

Overall, the trip was a blast. The group was small enough that we could all get to know each other, but big enough that it felt like a party. Not everyone was a Wushu fanatic, so there was plenty to talk about besides martial arts. Personally I would have preferred there be more Wushu (for example, having a morning and afternoon session with some rest in between the sessions), and would not have stayed for the Christmas party, but others may have felt that it was a good balance of rest and exercise. The bed-and-breakfast was also fairly cozy, and the disappointing breakfast was not a deal breaker (after all, it was £100 for the hotel, train tickets, food, and the seminar). It was very well worth the money, a good balance of fun and hard work and I would recommend it to newcomers and veterans. All in all a great trip. Good job, IC Wushu!



Final Group Picture!

Spring Period

Tour Report - Civsoc International Tour – Prague 2013

Number of members attending: 55 full members

Purpose of Tour:

- Give students the experience Civil Engineering applications in a foreign country
- Allow students to experience the culture of a foreign country
- To bring bonding between all year groups

Duration: 24/3/2013-28/3/2013

On the 24th of March, 55 Civil Engineers comprising of all year groups took off to the capital of Bohemia, Prague in the Czech Republic on the annual International Tour. It was indeed an event that many had look forward to and the excitement of the participants could be felt throughout the journey from the Imperial College Union to Prague Airport.

Upon arriving in Prague, Civsoc made their way to Hostel Marabou in the Zizkov district of Prague. This was to be Civsoc's home for the next four days. The accommodation was a pleasant, cosy hostel with very affordable group prices. With the many break out spaces and living rooms, the hostel provided the students with much needed respite after a long day of touring. Additionally, the open plan of the place allowed all the year groups to socialise and mingle in a stress free environment, an opportunity which is not usually available at the Skempton Building.

Day 2 (25/3/2013) of the tour gave the participants the opportunity to learn about the history and culture of Prague as a city. This was done through the organising of a walking tour that would take up all day. Spanning the entire day, the activity would prove to be a tiring yet enjoyable and educationally stimulating walking tour. All 55 students left the hostel at around 10.30 am for the centre of the city via public buses to reach the tour guides at the starting point of the walking tour, the Rudolfinum, the home of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra. The grandness of the structure gave the students a feel of the Classical music culture that once embodied Prague in the 18th century. In fact, some of Wolfgang Mozart's most successful opera was set in the Rudolfinum. From there the tour guides led the group to cover most of Prague while explaining the turmoil and adversity that Prague has gone through over the last century with turbulent events such as World War Two, the Soviet occupation, communism and the splitting of Czechoslovakia. The first destination for the walking tour was the Castle District; where Civsoc was able to experience the heights and splendour of the Bohemian kingdom and how the district has transitioned to be an important place for local and European governance. Moving onwards, Civsoc had an opportunity to view the great architecture in the Old Town district where most houses and buildings were built with a strong Baroque and Neoclassical influence. Lastly, Civsoc had the opportunity to visit Josefov which was the old Jewish Town. The students learnt about the adversity and difficulty that the Jewish people living in Josefov would experience especially during World War Two. Nonetheless, the group also had the

opportunity to learn about the redevelopment of Josefov from a mere slum to one of the most expensive and coveted areas in the world.



Civsoc during the Walking Tour

Day 3 (26/3/2013) gave the students an opportunity to experience a real life Civil Engineering project in the heart of Prague. The Civsoc committee had the opportunity to liaise with the Civil Engineering Department at the Czech Technical University and they were kind enough to organise a site visit for the tour. The site visit was held at Blanka Tunnel, which makes up part of the Prague ring road, a scheme with the intention of easing traffic congestion in central Prague. Before heading into the site, students received a briefing on the goals and work done on the Prague ring road. Furthermore, participants were given an in-depth technical explanation of the excavation methods used at Blanka Tunnel. Finally, the students were brought into the Blanka Tunnel, the largest city tunnel in Europe. Civil Engineers were able to view first-hand how different methods of excavations were carried out. Additionally, the students had the opportunity to see the large amount of electronic and electrical equipment required for a successful application of a city tunnel.



Blanka Tunnel and Prague Ring Road Briefing



Blanka Tunnel Site Visit

After lunch on Day 3, Civsoc was invited by the Czech Technical University to visit and tour their campus and to attend a number of lectures on the research work being done at the university. Some of the research work really stood out for students. For example, the multi-scale analysis of Charles Bridge in Prague by Professor Michal Sejnoha inspired students in finite element modelling

as they saw how applicable it could be to a real life scenario. After the series of lectures, students were given the chance to either visit the micromechanical library at the university or to visit the National Technical Library. The library was intriguing as never before had students seen a library with the intention of being a youth hangout spot. The décor of the library was interesting and students could understand how the library had an inviting feeling to it. Moreover, food and drink was not banned in this library. Nonetheless, nothing was as striking as the fine art painted throughout the library by describing the issues that the 21st century world is facing such as poverty, war and corrupt governance.



Lecture at Czech Technical University

For the final full day in Prague (27/3/2013), the students were given a free and easy day where nothing was planned and students were allowed to visit attractions as they see fit. Most of the students took the opportunity to visit tourist attraction not yet covered by the walking tour such as Petrin Hill and Charles Bridge. Some decided in exploring the Old Town and soaking in the atmosphere of a foreign culture and city. The flexibility of the day was received with positive feedback as each individual was not hindered by a set plan and could experience the broad attractions that Prague had to offer according to their likes and dislikes



Czech Technical Library Visit

Unfortunately, the final day of the tour came about (28/3/2013) and the group made their way to Prague Airport for the bittersweet moment of returning to London. The Civsoc International Tour 2013 was a successful event and it has achieved all the goals set out by the committee. Additionally, there were no serious issues that occurred, everything went according to plan and the budget that was set was followed. The tour was successful as participants had the perfect balance between an educational and relaxing tour. Not only did the tour achieve its main goal for the event of allowing students to experience a Civil Engineering application in a foreign country, participants were also given the educational experience of history, culture and also technical engineering knowledge. Furthermore, the social aspect of the tour was not left out and there was the opportunity for strong bonding between Civil Engineers at all year group levels. Moreover, the majority of feedback received from the participants was positive. It would not be farfetched to exclaim that all the participants were saddened with the end of the tour. Alas, all good things must come to an end. Nonetheless, the success of this year's tour built a definite excitement and enthusiasm for Civsoc International Tour 2014.

Paik Qinn Teoh
Tour Finance Officer
Civsoc 2013



ICCC Easter Tour
Ronda - Andalucia

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1 Introduction

A grim winter of cold, ice and snow had taught the cavers of ICCC to revel in the masochism of caving. Each and every trip involved treacherous journeys through blizzards to cold and flooded caves. They vaguely remembered the autumn, a few trips where the yellow orb warmed the cave entrances. Was caving pleasant then?

The decision was made to venture outside the boundaries of Yorkshire. They had heard tales of far off lands where the caves were warm and the wine was cheap. This 'Not Yorkshire' place was Andalucia, in Southern Spain.

A term of furious emailing, reading poorly translated Spanish websites and sending money to surely legitimate people overseas lead finally to their Easter Tour.

2 Aims

1. To continue to practice caving to prepare our cavers for the summer expedition.
2. To introduce members to Via Ferrata; a sport not commonly available in the UK and which uses similar traverse techniques as caving..
3. To introduce members to Canyoning; a sport not commonly available in the UK and which uses similar rope techniques to caving.
4. To foster a friendly environment to allow members to bond.

3 The Team

Rhys Tyers



'El Presidente'

Oliver Myerscough



'Bolt-breaker'

Sam Page



'Garden chair brawler'

Fiona



'Surface recon'

Dave



'Reckless driver'

4 16th April 2013

They packed efficiently and carefully throughout the night, checking that nothing was forgotten. Not a single battery, krab, or sling went undocumented. With some time to spare (due to aforementioned efficiency) they brushed up on their Spanish;

-Dave ha sido comido por los perros rabiosos,

-Dave has been eaten by rabid dogs,

-Dave ha ahogado

-Dave has drowned

-El vino no es lo suficientemente barato

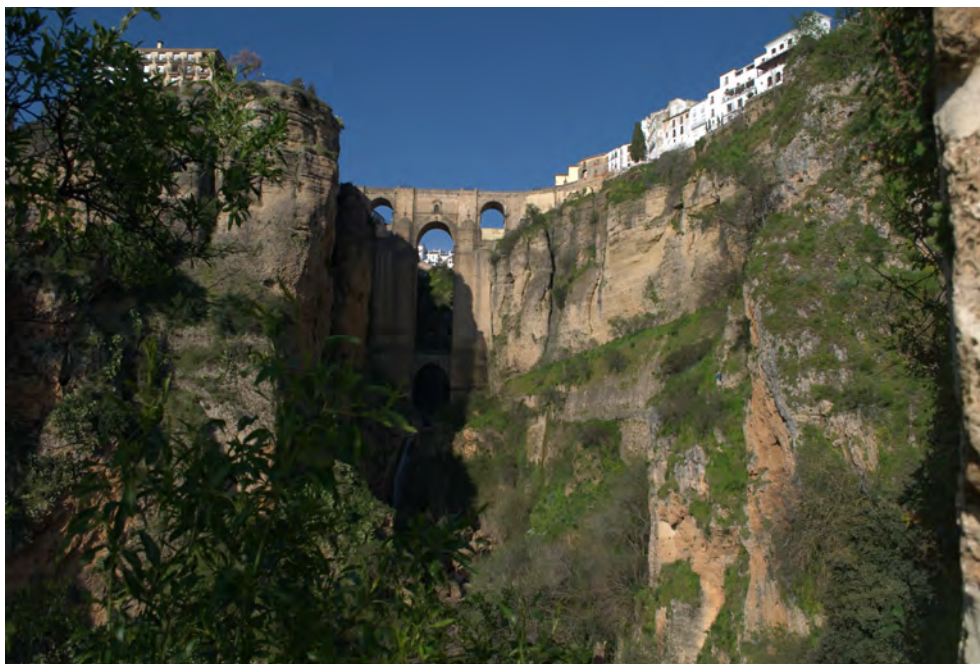
-The wine is not cheap enough

They eventually left stores in the early hours, trekking through the orange lit London night to get to their easyBus and ultimately the airport. They went through the usual check in procedure (nobody commenting on the large amount of strange metal objects they were carrying), had a surprisingly cheap pint of 'Hoptimus Prime' at Weatherspoons and boarded the plane. The journey was smooth despite a threat from the pilot to divert them to Granada due to 'fog'. On arrival they picked up the car, a 4x4 look-a-like. Hopefully the roads would be fooled.

The hot Spanish sun smiled on them as they attempted to find their villa. Strange conversations over the phone with the villa owner eventually resulted in her finding them and leading them to the villa. A picturesque country home on the fringes of Ronda, with spacious rooms, patios and even a pool. The pool they were told was 'trepidado' though subsequent efforts have failed to translate this word. The perfect base of operations for hardcore caving. They arrived to the chorus of dogs barking from the kennel next door. The low price of the villa made more sense now. It was 4pm, they had ventured to the local market, 'Supersol', and had eaten lunch. Everyone was excited to go 'Via Ferrata-ing'.

Dave expertly drove the car through streets that would have been decent squeezes were they in a cave and they arrived in the centre of Ronda at the cliff edge. Ronda is built around a large canyon, with cliffs hundreds of metres tall. It is around these cliffs that they hoped to find the first Via Ferrata route. Remembering what he had read on the internet, Rhys ensured that everyone had put on their climbing harnesses and lanyards on correctly. The team ventured down the steep canyon walls, quickly finding a path that lead under the spectacular bridge around which Ronda is centred.

]On the wall was a ladder, the beginning of a VF route. They, showing no trepidation, climbed the unsecured ladder to find a second ladder. Again they climbed. The route ended. We were on a supporting level of the bridge. A lovely view from the platform but not the epic cliff scaling adventure the team was looking for. Satisfied with their introduction to VF and now confident in their abilities to conquer any ladder based obstacles the sport could throw at them, they went looking for another route. They found one just off the original path. This was more like it. Iron rungs set into the wall lead down the cliff face, disappearing below lips of rock. They ventured down, the Andalucian country side spreading out below them. Two of the party, Fiona and Oli, decided to turn around and head back up. Three continued and found the end of the rungs shortly below. Dave, Sam and Rhys followed a walking path up the cliff and arrived back at the top to see Fiona and Oli emerge at the top of the VF route.



'Fiona can be seen on the VF route'

5 17th April 2013

Today a meeting was supposed to happen with Manu, a local caver who, for unknown reasons, had agreed to go caving with ICCCs. In a fit of previously unseen enthusiasm all 5 of the team were awake by 9.30am, awaiting the arrival of Manu. Despite the best of intentions and a few awkward phone calls with Manu (neither side speaking much of the others language) he was unable to find the villa and instead the team agreed to meet him at a local plaza in a few hours. This time they met Manu and his wife and followed them back to their house where, with the aid of Google translate plans were made for caving. Manu decided it was too late for caving today and so provided some information on VF the team could do.

Not ones to waste a day, the indefatigable cavers went VFing. The first route, in Benaojan, leads up a sheer cliff face by a road. It was a single unbroken series of rungs up at least 30 metres to a ledge. The rungs lead round a lip of rock, requiring the climber to lean out backwards and almost crawl horizontally, upside down, on the bottom of the rock lip. This section defeated a couple of our cavers. Dave managed it but decided that he would turn round and go back down it immediately. Only Oli and Rhys made it to the ledge. Leading off from this ledge was a Tibetan bridge. A collection of wires that an intrepid explorer can cross like a tight rope (with the added benefit of extra wires to hold onto). Above this was an easy climb to the plateau on top of the cliffs. The second route, in Benalauria, was a vertical climb of 100 metres or more. No Tibetan bridges or ledges, an unbroken climb up 100 metres. Easy stuff, completed by 4 of our party.

The evening was passed with a barbecue and sampling the copious varieties of sub 2 euro wine available at the supermarket.



'VF ladder heading straight up'

6 18th April 2013

Once again all cavers got up at an unreasonable hour to meet with Manu. He arrived at the villa at about 10.30am and with few words exchanged everyone was off. Dave, Rhys, and Oli in the hire car, Sam and Fiona with Manu in his car. Dave followed him down the main road, down a country road and onto a dusty track. The track wound up into the mountains of the national park eventually becoming just wide enough for one car, with a precipitous drop on one side. At one point a large boulder forced Dave to drive close to the edge. From the passenger window the road couldn't be seen, just the steep dusty cliff to the valley below. As they neared the cave Dave drove the car into a ditch. The car was balancing on the back bumper and its front wheels. Manu lead the reconstruction of the road, many times lifting the car so rocks could be piled under the wheels. Eventually the car was driven out with only a small dent on the bumper to show for it. The national park will be billed for the infrastructure repair.

The cave itself was the definition of pleasant caving. 'Rio Verde' begins with an entrance next to a shallow pool of water. Ducking under a waterfall on the way in the cave follows the boulder strewn streamway. The cavers took every opportunity to dip into the water. It was entirely possible to stay warm in underwear, an oversuit and a wet cotton tshirt in the cave, something that would surely lead to hypothermia in the UK. The IC cavers got to demonstrate their SRT prowess as the first pitch was reached. It was perhaps apparent that a few of them were a little rusty. Beyond this was a point where Manu needed to take photos. He had a rather impressive set of photo gear, occupying three tackle bags in total. Fiona stayed to help whilst Rhys, Dave, Oli and Sam continued up a pitch. The rigging was expedition style i.e. just enough to get you up the pitch. This led into a small chamber with pretty stalactites and stalagmites. The way out was as pleasant as the way in and all cavers exited into the glorious sunshine.



'Sam at rebelay in Rio Verde'



'Dave standing next to a huge spout of water'

7 19th April 2013

It was decided in the morning that everyone would quite like to go canyoning, especially as it is something that it is not possible to do in the UK. Unfortunately, despite the efforts spent packing equipment back in London, it was discovered that only four buoyancy aids had been brought to Spain. To try and resolve this, the car headed into Ronda with the aim of finding somewhere to hire an extra life jacket. The location of a shop was obtained from tourist information, and the next couple of hours were spent traipsing around town. Ultimately, the shop was near Supersol, but was closed. After all this, Fiona admitted that she would be happy to take the afternoon off, and so the remaining four, each equipped with a buoyancy aid, headed off to the canyon. Amusingly, this was located by a town in which every building was painted Smurf blue; a tourist-friendly remnant of when the town had been used as a location for the Smurfs movie.

After changing into their wetsuits by the side of the road, the team headed down towards the river; a short, but steep, walk away. Fortunately, being Spain, the afternoon was very warm and hence entering the river was refreshing. The water flowed at little more than ankle height for close to half an hour of stumbling over rocks, with the odd slide into slightly deeper water. The stream had a slightly off putting smell, having an undisclosed amount of sewage running through it; they had all been warned not to drink the water...

Upon reaching the first cascade, of which there were three, Oli immediately set about rigging. Oli and Rhys had been canyoning the previous year, and so had at least used a Pirana before; for Dave and Sam this was completely new. Oli went down first, to show the others how to do it; apparently, this consisted of letting go halfway down and falling into the water. Dave followed and too appeared to become unstuck towards the bottom where there was a particularly strong flow of water; luckily Oli was on hand to fight the water. Once the other two had reached the bottom, they all remarked that none of them had descended very competently; nevertheless, they had all had a taste of canyoning (and a mouthful of stream water) and were keen to proceed to the next waterfall. Upon reaching this, the team were daunted at the increased size and apparent force of water compared to the previous

cascade. Oli was eager to have a go, and scouted around the top edge to check it out. The others were more perturbed, peering over the edge to try to glimpse the bottom. The two first-timers in particular were less than confident as to their abilities, and as a group they decided to head back upstream. Fortunately, they remembered that beside the first cascade, it looked easy to climb up the rock.

Not wishing to finish their canyoning experience quite yet, each of the team had another try at descending this, each with perhaps some more skill than previously. It was Dave who appeared to demonstrate the best method: to descend half way with one foot on each side, and then swing onto the left hand side where was a ledge which continued towards the bottom. This avoided the worst of the powerful burst of water, and with it, the fear of getting stuck under the water at the bottom. The others each tried out this new technique, and felt that even if they had not had a full canyoning trip, they had at least mastered this one cascade(!). Heading back for Smurf-town was easy going, with the steep climb back to the car proving only a minor annoyance. After changing, and checking out the playground, the team were disappointed to find the bar had closed since they had arrived. If time had permitted, they would have returned to the canyon later in the week and had a proper day of defeating the canyon; this was not to be.



'The cascade'



'Sam in the waterfall'

8 20th April 2013

The plan for the day was to go it alone and attempt to cave. The cavers decided to use their recently acquired permits and head to Sima Cacao which translated is Cocoa Chasm. The walk up to the cave is spectacular. The path winds up the mountainside above the village of 'Villaluenga de Rosario' The path is well worn and obvious most of the way after about an hour of walking arrives at a plateau. An idyllic field stretches out, full of wildflowers and trees and (may not be a permanent feature) picnicking schoolchildren. Over a ridge and up a final incline (past a bottomless well with a bit of floating moss big enough to be sentient) leads to a collection of rocky outcrops. In amongst this is where our cavers found Cacao. There are two openings and Oli chose to rig in the one with the plaque above it remembering the death of a caver in the 80s. A rough initial translation using the team's expert knowledge of Spanish suggested it said:

He had a passion for life, not any more.

However it was later translated to:

He filled his years with life, not his life with years.

Perhaps a little more sombre. Oli descended initially but after 30 metres had only found one unusable spit (anchor point) in the wall so he came back up, unwilling to go much further on 9mm rope. Rhys descended and found a usable spit shortly below where Oli had turned round and continued. The next spit was on the opposite side of the cave wall. Rhys did an upside down superman pose to reach it, pushing of the wall he was on and completely outstretching to screw the hanger in. Down another rebelay and Rhys decided to go for it and head to the bottom. It occured to him as he approached this 'bottom' that the cave continued further down and he was merely reaching a ledge. However, they had been told to swing into a window rather than continue to the bottom and window was just by the ledge. Rhys tied off the rope and rigged a traverse round into the window. Oli had been following, one rebelay behind. He called down,

"I've broken the hanger"

He'd broken the hanger. Whilst tightening the bolts so the hanger did not swing he had overtightened and sheared the bolt head off leaving the thread in the hole. As Oli swung about, searching for another spit nearby, Rhys wandered about further into the passage. It was obvious pretty quickly that this particular window didn't go anywhere. It just lead to a wall of formations. Confused, Rhys headed back to the pitch and looked across the chamber. On the other side was another window that clearly continued downwards. Unfortunatley he had swung into the wrong window. By this time Oli had found another bolt and was on the ledge. Dave and Sam were following. There was not enough time to rerig to the correct window so instead some photos were taken and the team headed out.

They arrived on the surface just in time to follow the group of schoolchildren down the side of the cliff. This route was far quicker and they were back at the car less than 30 minutes.



'Oli and Dave look at formations. The cover image is also from this cave.'

9 21st April 2013

Once again at Manu's direction the team awoke at the obscene hour of 8am. They were to meet Manu at a restaurant down the main road. The team had very little idea of what to expect when they arrived at the restaurant. They parked and waited. A little while later another car turned up. As people unloaded from the new car, looks were exchanged. It was obvious that both groups recognised each other as cavers (psychic bond shared by all cavers?) so a few minutes passed awkwardly. Luckily Manu turned up before anything kicked off and introduced the ICC to the other cavers. They would all be heading down GESM together. One unexpected breakfast at the restaurant later and three cars were trundling towards the cave. Luckily the roads were far better than for Rio Verde and Dave handled them admirably (despite calls for 'power slides round the corner').

There was a bit of car shuffling at the top of the mountain (incidentally the best car park in the world) and the cavers all headed off on the 30 minute walk to the cave. Rhys, due to stupidity, wore sandals and managed to cut his toe on a rock. Luckily the Spanish had better first aid kits than us (and some idea of how to use them) and he was soon mended. He put on his walking boots and caught up to the

rest of the group, who upon seeing his more sensible footwear shouted "Intelligent!". They arrived at the cave entrance. A limestone shakehole in the ground, reminiscent of the ICCC camping site in the Slovenia. They changed into their kit and the 20 or so cavers descended into the cave entrance.

There was a tight entrance squeeze, oddly filled with thousands of mosquitoes. 'Extra protein' said the caver in front, laughing as Rhys and Dave spat the insects out of their mouths. There were several spacious pitches, descended rapidly by everyone. A small stream followed the pitches most of the way down. The sounds of rapidly spoken Spanish echoed constantly around. Eventually an airy traverse was reached. This led to a 110 metre pitch in a massive chamber. The scale was truly impressive. Manu and Jose (apologies if the name is incorrect) lead the way, falling effortlessly down the ropes. The ICCCs attempted to keep pace.

After the massive pitch the cavers headed down several smaller pitches and then up a very dodgy climb into a rift. It was soon announced that this was unexplored territory. The team had been told they would be taken to the pushing front (i.e the limit of exploration) but it was still surprising to then go on a pushing trip. Dave managed to go the wrong way at this point so it is possible that he is the only person to have been in the airy rift he found himself in. Luckily he found his way back by following Rhys's voice. The Spanish ahead expertly pulled a massive drill out of the bags they had carried and bolting down the rift almost as soon as find it. Some cavers headed down but confusingly they did not want the rest to go down. Jose, patiently explained (with numerous hand gestures) that they needed to go back. It turned out that it was possible to simply climb down the rift at an earlier point, so everyone met up in a small chamber at the bottom.

The Spanish cavers then all retrieved the packed lunches they had carried in. They seemed surprised that the ICCC had not brought any. In the UK it is often too cold to stop and eat much more than a chocolate bar without becoming uncomfortable and the caves are not so deep so the UK cavers had not thought to bring anything. They kindly shared their lunches and everyone was soon refuelled and ready for the trip out. The task on the way out was to remove telephone wire. It had been laid to the underground camp at -700m but had stopped working. Oli went in front followed by Sam, then Dave, then Rhys. A few hours later everyone was back on the surface and drinking the Cruzcampo they had brought to the entrance.



'5 cavers descend the 110m pitch, each at a different rebelay.'



'Madman (Jose) + Drill'



'Don't get your feet wet.'

10 22nd April 2013

Exhausted from the epic trip out the day before, the cavers decided to have a doss day. Everyone got some much needed reading done. Dave benefited most as he was reading a self-help book he found in stores. He no longer blames himself for global warming.



'Showcasing our competence.'

11 23rd April 2013

On the last day of tour, the morning was spent packing and cleaning up. The flight home was not until late at night, giving the best part of a day to do something before having to hand back the house key. Via ferrata seemed a sensible and desirable option, not requiring very much gear. Plus, the cavers had been enthusiastic to have a go on the zipwire that Manu had described earlier in the week.

Unfortunately, halfway through the drive towards the via ferrata, it was discovered that no one had remembered to bring the rope that would be needed to recover the pulley after each person had used the zipwire. Nevermind, the team continued onwards and soon the car was parked in a small town, beside a cemetery. The start of the via ferrata was a short walk uphill, beside an old church that was unfortunately located behind padlocked gates.

Dave and Rhys started off first, followed by Sam, Fiona and Oli. To start, the via ferrata was easy going, with a short descent. The beginning of the horizontal section was a little trickier, with a little bit of leaning outwards required. A small Tibetan bridge was soon reached - not particularly daunting. After this, the rungs continued across the rock face, with a couple of vertical sections leading downwards towards the next Tibetan bridge. This was scarier - long and exposed. Nonetheless, everyone made it across, even with the wind deciding to pick up at the exact moment that each person started the traverse. Of course, by this point everyone had absolute faith in their equipment, so were happy swaying in the wind, and posing for photos taken by Rhys, as long as they didnt look down. At the other end of the bridge was a small peak, the other side of which directly continued onto the zipwire. Rhys, Dave and Sam spent a while clinging to the side of the rock, with Rhys checking out the zipwire.

Despite his best efforts to rescue a piece of string from the bushes below, by the time everyone was crowded onto the rock, it was apparent that they would have to turn around. With just one pulley, only the first person would be able to do the zipwire, something which would have been a little unfair, and very brave of that one person.

And so the group headed back in roughly the same order as they had gone, enjoying what would be the last activity of their trip together. The via ferrata was not particularly challenging, although there were not many places where it was very possible to take a comfortable break. Once back on solid ground, and heading back towards the car, a little path was discovered which led towards the other end of the via ferrata. It seemed that after the zipwire and another Tibetan bridge there were only a few rungs left to climb - so in truth, they had done the majority of the actual via ferrata. Plus, the trip had lasted roughly the two hours that were suggested by the board by the start. All that was left was to get in the car, fuelled by water and chocolate brioches, and head home - first to the villa, and then home proper.



'Dave braves the Tibetan bridge'



'Sam, Fiona and Oli cling to the cliff face'

12 Conclusion

All aims were completed to different degrees of success.

1. To continue to practice caving to prepare our cavers for the summer expedition.

The group completed 3 caving trips over the week. One of which was to a depth of -300m, most of which was on rope. This magnitude of vertical cave is unavailable in the UK and is very useful preparation for the 1000m deep trips over the summer tour.

2. To introduce members to Via Ferrata; a sport not commonly available in the UK and which uses similar traverse techniques as caving.

Several Via Ferrata routes were completed and every member became exceptionally competent at traversing them.

3. To introduce members to Canyoning; a sport not commonly available in the UK and which uses similar rope techniques to caving.

One canyon was attempted but the team turned round halfway down, deciding that a particular cascade had too much water flowing to safely attempt it. There had been several weeks of heavy rain before the tour so this is likely the cause.

4. To foster a friendly environment to allow members to bond.

Everyone on the trip had a great time (see photos).

Considering the team was entirely composed of 1st and 2nd year cavers, none of whom had organised a foreign trip before, the whole experience was surprisingly smooth. They managed to do all three of the sports they intended. It is only canyoning where they would have really benefited from a more experienced guide to take them, and this is something to bear in mind for future trips. One of the more useful legacies of the trip, that can be made use of in the future, is the contacts the club now has in Spain.

13 Accounts

Euros were bought at a rate of 1.11 Euro per 1 GBP.

Outgoings	Amount
Food	252.66
Transport	869.96
Accommodation	313.45
Misc	28.74

Income	Amount
RCC Grant	260.99
Member Contributions	1,203.82

14 Thanks

This trip probably wouldn't have been nearly as successful as it was without the help of Miguel Tome. He provided much needed surveys, permits, and GPS coordinates for the caves the group attended. He also put the group in contact with Manu Guerrero. Manu took the team caving twice, to Rio Verde and Sima GESM. The Sima GESM trip in particular made a lasting impression on everyone. They were impressed by both the cave and the Spanish cavers, who were exceptionally friendly and fun. So finally, thank you Miguel, Manu and everyone the ICCC went caving with. Our trip was superb because of you.



'We'll be back'

We set off bright and early from Imperial College Union meeting at 7am on Saturday 23rd March 2013. Fifteen Fellwanderers packed into the minibus with all their kit secured on the roof and tents, gas stoves, ice axes, the beast pot and more as well. After a lengthy stop in North London to fight with a tyre inflating compressed air machine we sped up the M1 – which had enough snow to convince us we were already in Scotland – and on to the M6, stopping at Birmingham for a greasy spoon fried breakfast. Passing the Peaks and Lakes we soon crossed the border and stopped for a break at Gretna Green village, stocking up at the Cadbury factory outlet store. The journey continued between the tower blocks and industrial sprawl of Glasgow up to the beautiful Loch Lomond and beyond into the Highlands. As the gale force side-winds lashed the bus we were all speechless, either from the beautiful scenery or the ruined van and coach that had seemingly been ripped from the road and rolled into the frozen lake to our side. To ease the journey we filled the bus with a half week's food and continued under the veil of darkness, blissfully ignorant of the perilous conditions outside, arriving safe and sound at 11.45pm.

The Bothy (constructed 'on a budget' with solid stone walls and a meagre hardwood ceiling beneath sheet metal to ensure efficient heat loss) nestles itself on the shores of Little Loch Broom, in the village of Badrallach, which was comfortably enjoying a sub-zero yet sunny and dry climate.

Sunday morning we rose early munching granola and drinking tea, with a tantalising view of the snow capped An Tealach massif across the Loch basking in sun. We walked from the Bothy climbing the ridge immediately behind us which formed a peninsula spiking towards the Atlantic ocean. We summited both Cnoc a' Bhaid-rallach (544m) and Beinn Ghobhlach (635m), escaping the harsh winds to enjoy a sandwich picnic huddled between some rocks. We strolled down to Scoraig Village, which is accessed by boat across the Loch (no road); some 50 people live there, with well-drawn water, electricity from windmills, and neat little houses where phone and TV signals do not reach... a real contrast to London. We wandered back around the coast to our new home for a slice of Hello Kitty cake and then a classic cheesy chorizo pasta meal with a few beers. There was a good sized table and chairs to eat around but we were a bit cosy with 15 squeezed in, though the comfy sofa and roaring fire kept us happy. After hot showers it was time for bed, where two sleeping bags was the only way to keep warm!

Monday we were hungry to enter the mountains, hiking from Camusnagul up to Glas Mheall Mor (979m Munro Top) with a snowy scramble to the summit, then epic views to the spikes of the Munros beyond. We crossed the valley before heading up Sail Mhor (767m) with panoramic views of the mountains behind and the islands and sea in front. Thai green stir-fry and cherry pie for dinner. Tuesday we journeyed inland to Iverlael Bridge (on A835) climbing the snowy ridge up to the white-out that was Eididh nan Clach Geala (927m Munro), slowly picking our way down the icy descent we had lunch by the frozen fords and then retreated down the valley via Loch an Chnapalch. A delicious beef curry with rice and naan was prepared at the bothy and much fun was had.

Wednesday was a rest day for most, some basked in the sun with books at the bothy, others made a tour of the highlands, visiting gorges, waterfalls, distilleries, the glorious Morray Firth suspension bridge and picking up some shopping in the bleak city of Inverness. Others

took a walk from nr. Loch a Bhruicin (on A832) up to Meall a' Chrasgaidh (934m Munro) and Carn na Criche (961m tour high point), with spectacular views of Sgurr nan Clach Gaela (1093m), before heading back down via Coire Breabig after bailing on Sgurr Mor (1108m) summit attempt. The minibus journey back passed by many wild peat fires, caused by the strong sun and dry conditions, with flames and smoke filling the valley. A delicious pork and dumplings meal was prepared with trifle for dessert over which many tales of old were told.

Thursday we enjoyed a hearty fry-up breakfast, fueling folks with energy. One group climbed from Torran Dubh (on A835) up to Beinn Liath Mhor Fannich (954m Munro) via Creag Dhubh Fannich, returning via Beinn Laith Bhearg (664m). Meanwhile another group undertook an epic journey passing the back of An Tealach down to the shores of Loch na Sealga and back. After a brisk dip in the icy sea loch and a spot of tea and cake at the bothy, a traditional Scottish dinner of Haggis with potato mash and swede was had in the evening, with many an ale and cheesecake for dessert.

Friday we woke at 5am to pack and leave at 7am, driving over three hours North along "A roads" which consisted of single-track roads with occasional passing places, to reach Ben Hope, the most Northerly Munro. We eagerly marched from sea level up the long ride to summit Ben Hope (927m Munro), before white-out set in and we found our way back down the snow to the sunny valley, before bundling back in the minibus for a long journey home. We left the valley at 4pm, stopped for dinner in Perth at 8pm and returned to London for 7am.

Maps

Day 1-2: OS Explorer 435 An Teallach and Slioch

Day 3-5: OS Explorer 436 Beinn Dearg and Loch Fannich (Ullapool)

Day 6: OS Explorer Ben Hope



Imperial College Cheerleading Spring Tour

Friday 22nd – Sunday 24th March

50 members attended the Imperial College Cheerleading spring tour; 49 full members and one Associate/Life member. Two external coaches Natasha Wedlock and Claire Peaker also attended the tour. During the tour we competed at the World Cheerleading Coalition (ICC) British Open Nationals 2013 on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th March.

Tour Finances

- £1,525 Travel by coach to Nottingham Jury's Inn on Friday 22nd March and return to London (Hammersmith and South Kensington) Sunday 24th March.
Breakdown of funds used to cover the travel expenditure:
 - £577.94 Travel Expenditure Grant from Union
 - £236.77 Tour Grant – Travel
 - £710.29 Covered by members attending tour

- £2,306 ICC Nationals 2013 Entry fees
 - 52 members at £38pp for a two-day (Sat, Sun) full team competition pass (2 members cancelled attendance after payment was made):
 - Co-Ed Level 3: 30 members * £38
 - All-Girl Level 2: 20 members * £38
 - 15 members at £22pp for one-day (Sat) Group Stunt University Open (5 members per team):
 - All-Girl: 5 members * £22
 - Co-Ed: 2 teams at (5 members * £22)/team
 - £242.76 Entrance fees – Grant from Union.
 - £2063.24 Covered by members attending the tour.

- £2,888 Accommodation at Jury's Inn Nottingham for 52 people (50 members + 2 coaches) for two nights stay (Fri-Sat, Sat-Sun)
 - 2 nights * £76/room (3 people/room) * 19 rooms
 - Hotel accommodation covered by members attending tour.

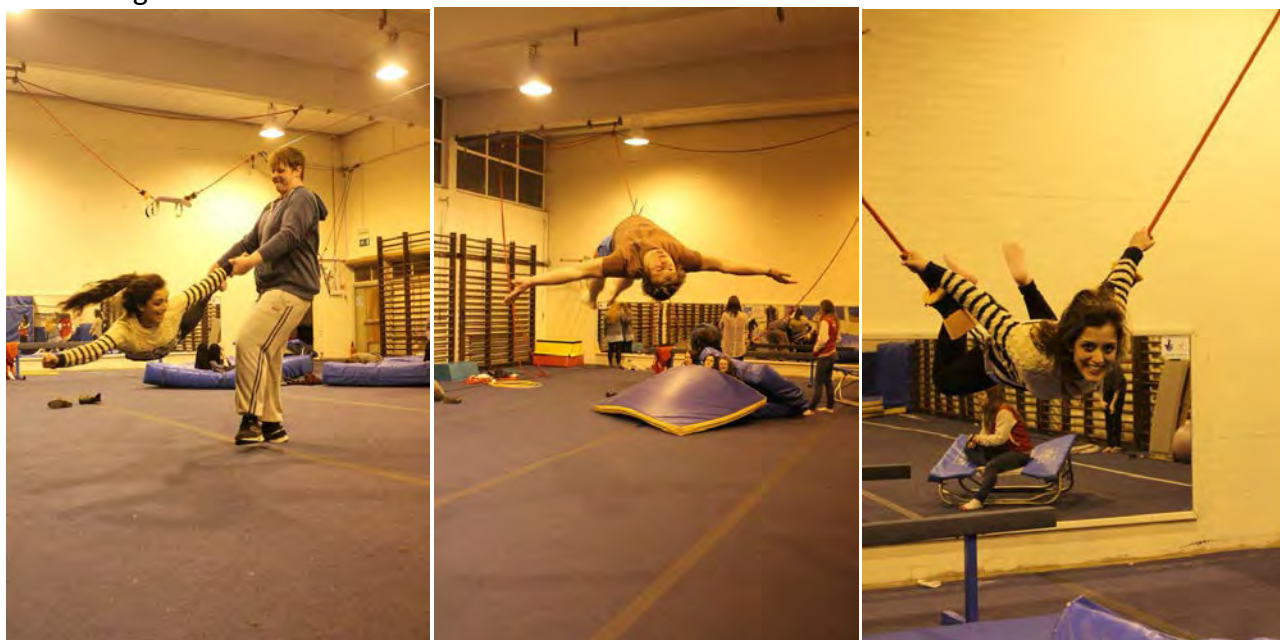
Team breakdown

Two full teams and three Group Stunt teams, total 50 members

- 30 members in Team Red, Co-Ed Level 3 Allstar-category
- 20 members in Team Silver, All-Girl Level 2 Allstar-category
- 15 members in 3 Group Stunt teams (14 also competed in Team Red and one in Team Silver)
 - One all-girl team (5 members)
 - Two Co-Ed teams (10 members = 2* 5 members)

The Cheer Spring Tour 2013

Final preparations for the Imperial College Cheerleading Spring tour 2013 kicked off with a gruelling six-hour training session at Sportac Gymnastics sprung floor & tumble track gym near Heathrow. Both full teams ran through their competition routines numerous times to perfect the performance and all group stunt teams got a chance to rehearse their (in some cases very last minute) routines as well. At 18.30 everyone was knackered and ready to hop on the coach to Nottingham, however we soon learnt that the coach had broken down on the way to the gym. Rather than become disheartened, we set camp on the cold floors of the Sportac Gymnastics (no one running the gym seemed to know how to switch the heating on); with some members huddling up to keep warm whilst others decided to develop their circus skills by hanging from the ceiling. A gingerbread cookie decoration party also took place, however hairspray contamination from the nearby Group Stunt hair curling marathon was rather inevitable.



Members discovering their hidden acrobatics skills whilst stuck at Sportac Gymnastics.





JJ with what can also be described as a big rat-like creature (left).

Cheryl clearly enjoying her gingerbread lady (right).



After several hours sat around at the gym, it began to look as though we would not be travelling to Nottingham that evening, and with the head coaches disappearing to the pub hope seemed to be thinning by the hour. But finally, thanks to the rather persuasive negotiation techniques of head coach Claire our bus finally arrived at 1am six hours late. However, our luck seemed to fail even during the short transit from the gym to the bus, as it was discovered a lonely suitcase had been locked inside the gates of the premises (by the owner of the case themselves). Nottingham greeted us with blizzard conditions as we finally checked into the hotel, Jurys Inn, at 4:15 in the morning.



View of the Nottingham Ice Arena.

For Group Stunt competitors, no mercy was given and athletes were forced to drag themselves out of bed and to head off to the Nottingham Ice Arena at 10.00 sharp. Having had close to no sleep the previous night and with a hurried breakfast in their stomachs, our first Co-Ed Uni Group Stunt performed their routine to several hundred spectators perfectly, throwing Sorrel Bunting several meters in the air. By this point most of the remaining team had managed to fight the winter snow storm outside and were sat in the audience cheering for their team mates. A few minutes later it was time for Giulia Ferretti's All-Girl Uni Group Stunt, and despite a few wobbles the team managed to pull the routine together even with some last minute changes. The third and final Imperial Group Stunt, flying Laura Garcia, also competed in the Co-Ed Uni category and performed very well on the day. Around 14.30, all group stunt teams were called to the stage for the awards. With a round of applause, our All-Girl team bagged themselves a trophy for 3rd place in their

category, followed by equally well deserved 4th and 6th place trophies from our two Co-Ed teams.

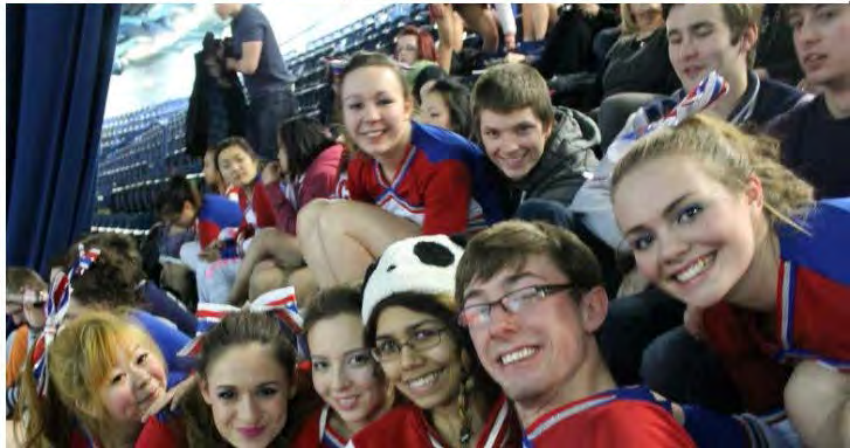


3rd place All-Girl Uni, 4th place Co-Ed and 6th place Co-Ed uni teams celebrating with their trophies!

Come evening, it was finally time for the full team performances. Team Silver kicked off their two-day mission with an amazing 2min30s performance, hitting all their stunts perfectly with the icing on the cake being Di Olateju's sexy solo dance moves. Team red also gave a solid performance, hitting every single stunt throughout the routine and placing 7th out of 10 teams after the first day.



Team Silver showing off their level 2 lib section (top left and bottom left) and tumbling à la Ita Guevara (bottom left). Team Silver trained their pyramid section to perfection (top right) and ended their routine with some attitude (bottom right).



Happy cheerleaders everywhere!

Despite performances from other teams continuing until late evening, we decided it would be best the teams retire to the hotel early. With almost no sleep from the previous night and after a tiring day falling asleep was not an issue for most members.



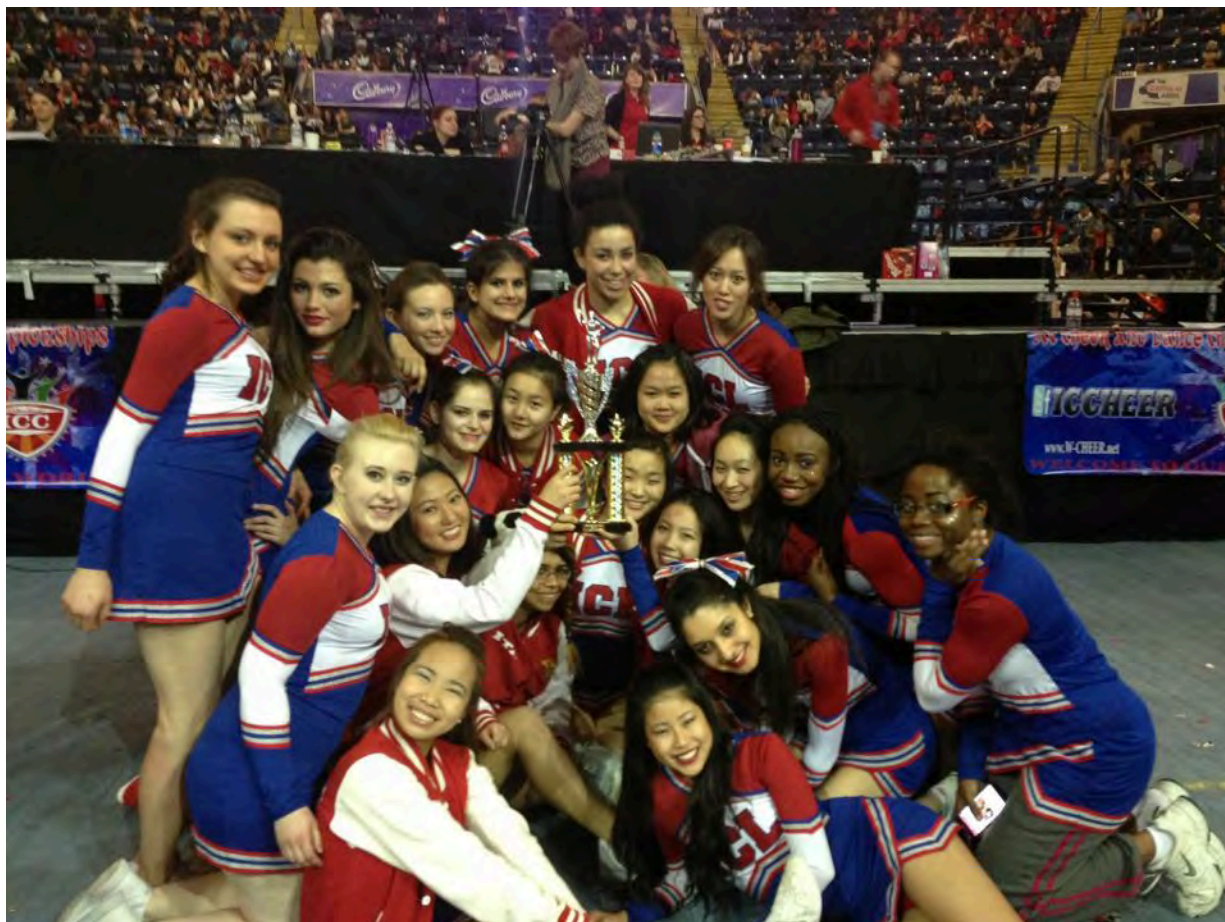
Team Red's beginning sequence of the routine. Spot Sorrel Bunting in the air.



JJ and Giulia's groups showing off level 3 stunts and some impressive hair curling (top). Team Red pyramid section (bottom).

On Sunday, the wakeup call came what seemed far too soon, but everyone was up and ready to leave for the Ice Arena by 10.00. Several members of the Imperial College American Football team arrived at the arena around midday to support us through the final day of the competition. Team

Silver's second performance took place in the afternoon and after a bit of confusion, the music was stopped. The team were able to pull themselves together and began their routine again, this time round with no technical problems. After a little wait, the All-Girl Level 2 full team awards were handed out and Team Silver placed 6th overall out of 7 teams at the end of the two days, beating an allstar team!



Team Silver celebrating with their All-girl Level 2 trophy! Well done girls!

Team Red's second and final performance was due in the early evening, and after an inspiring pep talk by Miriam Noonan, who is retiring from her ten-year long competitive cheer career, the team pulled off an amazing performance with a lot of attitude. Unfortunately the team lost some point to deductions from people seemingly falling on their heads, but placed overall 9th out of 10 teams. At the end of the final day, we stayed and watched in awe as the higher level allstar teams competed for entry to the Worlds 2013 in Orlando, Florida.

Finally, it was time to leave for home and our coach picked us up from the hotel around 23.00. Spirits were high on the road back and almost the entire team along with the American football boys celebrated our success on the upper deck of the coach, whilst those who felt sleepier got to sit downstairs away from the noise. Our driver was nice enough to drop us off at both Hammersmith and South Kensington, and Vice-captain Sydney Smith had a bit of a hard time making sure everyone remembered to pick up their belongings before leaving the bus. Prime examples of lost and found items included the score sheets from the performances, as well as Sorrel Bunting's Group Stunt trophy which had to be retrieved by the driver at a later date. Overall, everyone enjoyed their weekend at ICC comp with their team mates and friends from the football team.

Achieving Aims and Objectives with room for improvement

Our aim for this tour was to place within the TOP 6 in the whole team category and to place within the TOP 6 in at least one of the group stunt categories, and these aims stood for the duration of the tour.

The Group Stunt All-Girl team fulfilled expectations and placed 3rd in their category which is to date the highest placement we have achieved at a competition. Both Co-Ed group stunts also disappointed with their 4th and 6th placements. All group stunt teams brought back trophies for the club.

The majority of the teams we competed against were all-star teams, which are non-university teams where many members have been cheerleading since their childhood. The fierce competition inspired both our teams to "give it their all" and add performance flair. However, the team growth was not well-reflected by scoring. Team Red placed 9th (out of 10) and Team Silver 6th (out of 7). If we were to compete at a university-level competition (as we did last year at the British Cheerleading Association (BCA) University Nationals) the results would have been more encouraging. All in all, competing at ICC Nationals gave us new outlook on the sport that will inspire us for next season.

Major issues with the coach company

We hired our coach through Momentum Coach Hire Ltd, T/A Momentum Transport and our coach was supposed to pick us up at 7pm from the venue, however there were major issues along the way. The coach was first stuck in traffic, after which its windshield wipers broke and an engineer was apparently unable to fix the problem. The company would not provide us the driver's number for the first few hours from the start of the issues, and we were not told about any of these problems as they arose. After many hours on the phone to the coach contractors, our head coach Claire Peaker managed to convince the company that they needed to send another coach ASAP as our Group Stunt teams would be performing at 11am the next morning in Nottingham. We managed to negotiate with Sportac Gymnastics for a stay at the venue until the coach would arrive, however the heating did not work at the gym so people had to wrap up in several layers to keep warm. The new coach eventually arrived at 1am and we were off by 1.30am. We arrived at Jury's Inn Nottingham at 4.15am, six hours later than planned. We would not recommend the coach contractors (Momentum Travel) to anyone as they apparently do not own any coaches themselves and when issues arise they are not willing to contract another coach. They do not have any reserve coaches in case of incidents like this. Throughout the episode, they were hesitant to help us in a difficult situation that we could not do anything about, and blamed their inability to help us on their manager being away on holiday.

Members' impressions of the tour & how to improve for the future

Members of the club felt that everything "came together" during the tour and team bonding was at an all time high. Many new friendships were made and old ones reinforced during the tough but fun weekend. Club members supported each other through any difficulties e.g. falls during the performance, but also the good times through e.g. cheering in the front row for each performance. However, multiple members have requested that we compete at BCA next year - people would like

to not be outshined by all-star teams (vs uni teams) because some felt it discredits our efforts. On the other hand, many members (possibly more veteran members) felt inspired competing against allstar teams and having the chance to watch the best teams in the country perform at the highest skills level 6.

In the future we will discuss with our coaches the possibility of competing at university-only competitions again as teams competing in these competitions will be at a more similar level to us in tumbling skills and performance experience. Our skills in stunting are as good as any other national level team's and we are working to acquire special coaching for tumbling for next season in order to improve the whole club's overall performance. We will also aim to enter our group stunt teams into another competition during the season, e.g. to Future Cheer in February or other regional competitions, as we believe these teams have great potential to place high. It should also be possible to put together these shorter routines in time for competitions earlier on in the season.

Artsoc Tour Report for AY2012/2013 to Vienna, Austria

Key Facts:

- Number of members attending: 16 members (all full members)
- Dates of tour: 31st March 2013 to 3rd April 2013
- Financial state of the tour: Within budget

Artsoc went to Vienna, Austria this Easter break. Being a city famous for the arts, music and culture, Vienna was just the right place for members of Artsoc to explore and broaden their perspectives on the Arts. The highlight of the trip was an evening performance at Musikverein where we watched the Easter concert of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra. This was of special importance because it is the last concert by Fabio Luisi, who is the outgoing chief conductor of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra. This was met with great accord by the members who appreciated the unique experience and atmosphere hence fulfilling the most important aim of our trip.

Members enjoyed themselves immensely throughout the 4 days, as supported by their positive feedback after the trip. We visited various landmarks in Vienna which includes the State Opera house, Imperial palace and various other famous theatres around the city centre. As group, we also had a lovely dinner on the first night. Members were also subsidised for their transport expenses in Vienna. All these were initially budgeted for and the club's expenses for the trip did not exceed the sum that was planned for.

Close bonds were also forged among the members, achieving our second objective. The activities and itinerary were carried out and executed as planned. In summary, everything went smoothly. Members got a chance to know each other better and new friendships were formed. As we often travelled in groups, there is more than adequate time for members to get better acquainted with one another.

Future trips can be improved by having better coordination to reduce waiting time when everyone gathered. Weekends and bank holidays should also be avoided as some of the attractions have shorter hours or are closed on Sunday. An in-person pre-departure brief can also be considered to allow all participants to clarify any doubts.

In summary, the Artsoc trip to Vienna went smoothly and met with good feedback. In order to ensure that future trips will be just as successful, we have already handed over the key learning points for the planning and execution of the trip to the next committee. We are also honoured to be able to join the Easter concert at Musikverein and witness the final symphony by Fabio Luisi, the outgoing chief conductor of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra. It was a most memorable trip and we believe that Imperial students will continue to benefit from Artsoc's activities.

Day 1: 31 Mar 13 (Sunday)

Eager and excited Artsoc members beat the morning cold to gather at London Victoria station at 5.45am to catch the Gatwick express to Gatwick Airport. After a short flight, we reached Vienna at around 12noon local time where we checked into our hotel. The group had lunch together and took a short rest before we set of for a Vienna city tour where we visited many places, especially those of special artistic interest, including the State Opera House, Fine Arts Museum and Musikverein. While light rain persisted throughout the journey, it did little to quench everyone's enthusiasm and spirit. At 5pm, we headed for dinner at Fromme Helen restaurant which serves authentic Viennese cuisine before travelling back to Musikverein where we watched the Easter concert. It was a long and eventful day and everyone headed back for a good night's rest.

Day 2: 1 Apr 13 (Monday)

After breakfast, we met at 9am and headed off to the city center where we visited two other landmark attractions of Vienna, St Stephan's Cathedral and the Anker Clock. The bulk of the group continued to watch the morning exercise at the Spanish Riding School. After that it was lunch time and the rest of the time was free and easy time for members to explore the rest of Vienna.



Day 3: 2 Apr 13 (Tuesday)

Third day into our Vienna adventure allowed us to travel beyond the city center. We visited another two places of longstanding heritage and history to Vienna: the Schönbrunn Palace and Vienna Zoo. The Vienna Zoo is the oldest zoo in the world and host many rare species while the Schönbrunn Palace was the summer residence of the Habsburg monarchy from the late medieval to early industrial period. The members were allowed to roam and explore the huge compound for the rest of the day.

Day 4: 3 Apr 13 (Wednesday)

Time flies and Wednesday brings us to bid adieu to Vienna. Naturally everyone was looking forward to leaving the sunny weather behind and once again embracing the beautiful grey skies of London. Hotel checkout was at 11am, followed by lunch and travel to the airport. We reached the UK safely, and we arrived at London Victoria station in the evening. Having spent 4 days together, it was not without a tinge of sadness that we all parted ways. All in all, it was a great cultural and social experience which many will remember as a starting point of new friendships at Imperial.

Musikverein (Left: Before the concert



State Opera House

Right: Group photo after the concert)



Imperial Palace



Dinner together



Spring Tour 2013 Report – Catholic Society

Persons attending:

- 8 members
- 3 non-members including 1 college chaplain

Dates of tour:

- Start date 22/3/13
- End date 27/3/13

Activities whilst on tour:

The tour was a spiritual retreat organised by our chaplain. Activities were based around prayer and building faith, and included teaching sessions, “mentoring”, workshops and group celebrations. In general, we spent the morning of each day in silence, allowing for peaceful prayer and reading of the Bible. We said mass together, then had lunch together and then conducted a “group workshop” of some sort, which was sometimes spiritual, and other times just football. We met with our “guide” for the retreat for half an hour each afternoon to talk about faith and questions/issues, and spent more time individually praying and reading. After the evening meal together there was an evening event bringing together elements of the particular day’s teaching.

Financial state of tour:

The cost of the accommodation, food and activities was covered in full by persons attending. Transport was subsidised by the Union and the remainder of the cost was covered by persons attending. The tour made no profit or loss for the society.

Transport costs were on average £30-40 per person, depending on railcards etc. The trip from Imperial to Langport, Somerset, was made by bus or train. The cost of the retreat was £110 which included accommodation, food and activities.

Success of the tour:

We believe that the retreat met our stated aims and objectives: we were able to provide a perfect environment and the right activities for members to engage in faith-building and prayer. Our feedback has been unanimously positive from those who attended and many would be happy to go again, or have recommended the retreat to others. We will definitely consider a similar format next year.

Changes to proposed activities:

None.

DAY-BY-DAY ACTIVITIES

Friday 22nd

We travelled up to Langport in the afternoon, reaching the house we were staying in by late evening. After a brief welcome and some food, we had an evening of praise and worship, a little more lively than we usually have the chance to do.

Saturday 23rd

We followed the structure of the retreat, starting the day in silence and engaging in personal prayer on the theme of love. The afternoon workshop was to prepare a sort of Passion play for the following day, which was Palm Sunday.

Sunday 24th

Today, Palm Sunday, there was special preparation for the mass, which included the Passion play we had prepared. The afternoon was spent relaxing and playing football.

Monday 25th

In the afternoon we left the house for a short outing to the beach, just south of Western Supermare, around 30 minutes drive away. We ate lunch on the beach and then walked in silence for a while. The evening activity was focussed on reconciliation, the act of giving up stresses and worries and sins to God who lightens our burdens. There was the Catholic sacrament of reconciliation given by the chaplain, as well as other more universal activities such as symbolic washing.

Tuesday 26th

Another afternoon of football. The teaching for the day and evening event were centred around the Holy Spirit, with the chance for a "Baptism of the Holy Spirit" for those who requested one.

Wednesday 27th

Today we were given more practical teaching on how to take what we had learned back to university. Also, we were tasked with cleaning up the house. We left around 3 in the afternoon, getting back to London at around 8pm.

LeoSoc Spring Tour to Berlin

Breakdown of Members Attending

10 full members attended the tour, of which three were new to the society and two will form part of next year's committee.

Dates of Tour

We left on the 24th March and returned on the 27th March, spending four days and three nights in Berlin.

Activities

During our visit, we attended multiple museums and art galleries, including but not limited to the Berlinische Galerie, the East Side Gallery, the Bode Museum, the Pergamon, the DDR Museum, the Stasi Museum, the Grimmuseum, the Berlin Picture Gallery and the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. A highlight for the members was a one day tour highlighting the street art and underground scene in Berlin with a local artist, which culminated in a stencil art workshop.

In addition to these artistic activities, we enjoyed some excellent German cuisine and beverages and went to some bars recommended by locals to see the local alternative scene.

Daily activities

24th March

- Flew to Berlin
- Reached hostel
- German cuisine lunch
- Visit to Grimmuseum modern art gallery
- Explored Berlin nightlife

25th March

- Visit to German market
- Visit to DDR museum
- Visit to the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe
- Visit to the Stasi Museum
- Visit to the Berlinische Galerie modern art gallery

26th March

- Street art tour
- Stencil workshop
- Visit to the East Side Gallery street art exhibition on the Berlin Wall remains
- Visit to the Berlin Picture Gallery classical art gallery
- German cuisine farewell dinner

27th March

- Visit to the Bode Museum
- Visit to the Pergamon
- Departed Berlin

Financial State of Tour

The final state of the tour was a loss of £83.16. During the planning phase of the tour, an error was made in booking the flights which led to drastically increased expenditure. The treasurer estimates that if this mistake had not been made, there would have been a profit of approximately £740 made. Steps have been taken to ensure that this error is not made on subsequent tours.

Compliance with Aims & Objectives

The tour set out to meet the aim of our society which is to improve the member's practice and appreciation of visual art. The tour was to Berlin in order to engage with one of the most vibrant artistic centres in Europe, and I feel that we succeeded in this. We saw a lot of museums and street art, learnt what was universally a new technique, and experienced the alternative scene in Berlin. Therefore I strongly believe that the tour met its objectives.

Changes to Proposed Activities

Due to this being the Easter week some galleries operated strange opening hours, which meant that we couldn't stick to our original schedule however most galleries on that list were visited, just not in the predicted order. There were no major changes to the proposed activities.

Members' Impressions

We have requested formal feedback from our members however there were no complaints during or after the tour and all the members enjoyed their experience from conversations I had with them. The feedback, once received, will be passed on to the organiser of the next annual trip.

Major Issues Which arose on Tour

No issues arose on the tour which needed dealing with.

How to Improve for the Future

In future, flights should not be booked until the details of attendees is known. I cannot stress this enough. This means that the trip needs to be organised as early as possible, and put on sale as soon as official permission is gained from the Union for the tour to take place. My advice to anyone organising a similar trip would be to do as I did and research all suitable galleries in the city, pin them to a map to see when it makes sense to visit them, and open the planning process up to attending members to allow them to engage with the planning process.

Photos

Members during the stencil workshop:



Member admiring some modern art in the Grimmeuseum:



A good example of Berlin street art:



Imperial College Skydiving

RCC Parachute and Skydiving – SPRING TOUR REPORT

Written by: Isaac Gentle (Chair 2012-13)

I'm the first person to admit the tour did not go as planned! Due to kit issues (the dropzone which we were going to, has the handle that pulls the main parachute is in a different place to the dropzone students have trained at) over half the group intending to go, were not allowed under the stringent safety regulations of skydiving.

This issue was unforeseeable for us as we were told explicitly, by the organisers of the event, that the beginners in our society could come only to find out later they hadn't realised Headcorn had a different location of parachute handle.

So we split up and changed the official tour destination to Headcorn for the RAPS (a way of learning skydiving standing for Ram Air Progression System) students as this was where the bulk of the people would be going and could be open to anyone from the society.

4 people attended, the official trip to Headcorn and stayed a couple of nights (4-6th May) leading to one member getting their A-licence. This is like a driving licence of skydiving and to put the importance of this in proportion, only 1 society member got an A-licence last year. It enabled the serious progression of many others and allowed our members to get to know each other, the dropzone and the instructors much better. Some participated in learning how to pack a parachute when the weather was not suitable for jumping.

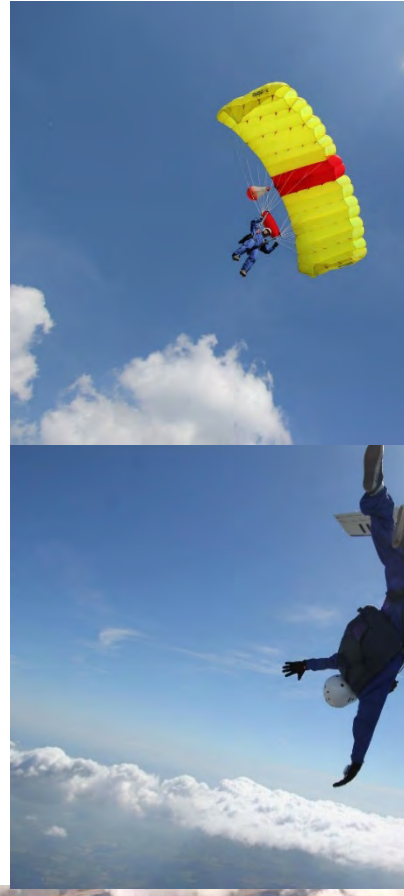
Due to this the method of transport was changed to trains and taxis rather than a minibus. So much of the money has been unspent as the cost was significantly reduced. Also, it has been hard to get members to make a claim to claim back what was spent on train tickets.

4 people attended the original tour destination, Netheravon, where we represented Imperial in the accuracy completion. 3 people in the society entered and had one member achieve 1st place in the wing suit competition. In the accuracy landing competition, due to a little luck and little misfortune, we achieved an accuracy of 15m and roughly a mile respectively (a long walk back!). We progressed and socialised and for me, the chair of the society it was very important to be able to meet the other chairs and get tips and advice on the future of the club.

So in total there were 8 people on all the trips (All full members) but on the official trip (with altered destination) there was 4 people.

This tour did achieve the 2 aims of progression and competition as laid out in the application but with 2 separate events (one unofficial and so not funded).

Now the issue of kit has been raised the problem will be sorted by the organisers for the next BCPA event so that our student members can attend without having to retrain to different equipment.



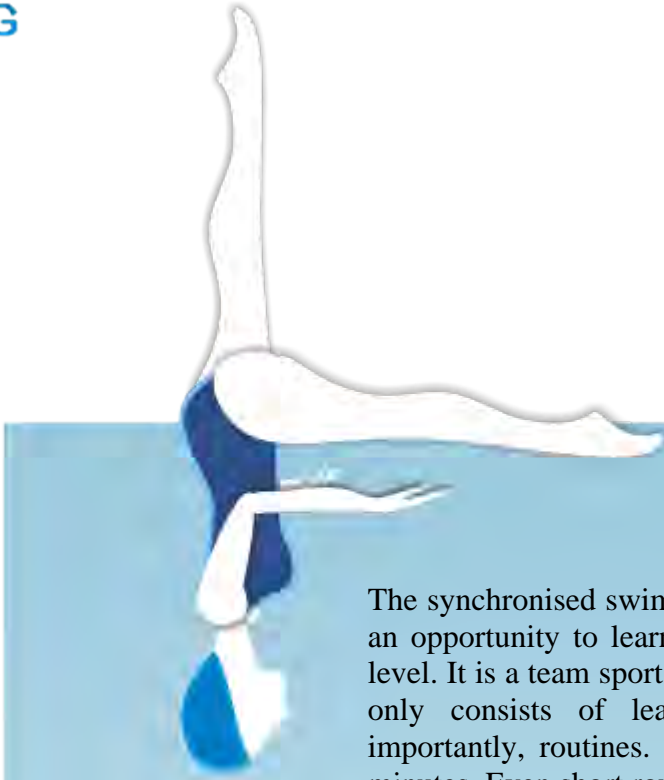
SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING



Tour Report - Spring Tour 2012/2013
ATTENDANCE OF THE FRENCH UNIVERSITIES
SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP IN
BORDEAUX, FRANCE

29th May – 1st June 2013





The synchronised swimming club aims at providing its members with an opportunity to learn a new sport and subsequently improve their level. It is a team sport in the toughest definition of the term, for it not only consists of learning individually new figures but, most importantly, routines. These are choreographies in music of 3 to 4 minutes. Even short routines necessitate many training sessions for the swimmers to master them and thus require the presence of more or less the same group of people every week for an extended period of time.

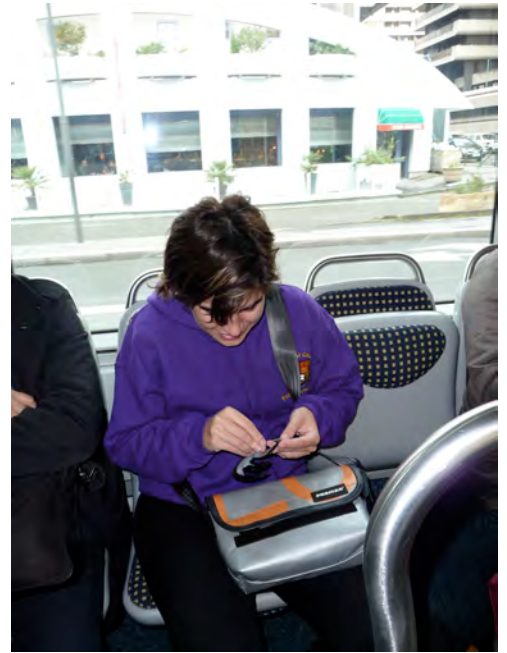
Understandably, being that committed is difficult for some students, especially postgraduate students or undergraduate students in their exam periods. This is why we felt we needed a better aim than just to learn something new, and this competition has been the perfect aim we needed for the team. In fact, not only has it allowed us to have a team of six training twice a week in the pool and once or twice a week on land; but also, it has motivated the rest of the members in their trainings to follow up on the level set by the competition team.

Because we are the only British university team and our level is not high enough to take part in the standard national competitions, we had to look for other university teams to compete with. Thanks to our link with some coaches and swimmers in France we were able to participate in the French university championship for the second time this year. This year it was taking place in Bordeaux, in the centre of France, on the 30th of May. As the competition was starting early in the morning (9.30am) and finished late in the evening (9pm), we could not just go for the day and had to at least spend two nights in Bordeaux. We found a flat to share that would be cheaper than going to a hostel or hotel and rented it for the night before the competition as well as the night after.

We arrived in Bordeaux on Wednesday, 29th of May at 9pm using a flight from British Airways that allowed us to leave late enough to work during the day. We then drove to the flat we were renting, cooked dinner and slept.

We started the next day at 7.30am, there were quite a few things to do in order to be ready for the competition. We arrived on the site of the competition at 9.30am. We were taking part in the Combination team category (Combo); this category has a variable number of team members, between five and ten. A routine lasts four minutes and has to have separate parts including a solo, duet, trio and whole team sections. Teams are judged on their technic and artistic performance. The criteria for artistic performance are the use of the whole space of the pool, the synchronisation, the presentation and the choreography. These are the points we can win on despite our low level technic.

The competition was held at the Swimming pool of Talence, a suburb of Bordeaux.



Dehydys seeing her headpiece in the tram on the way to the competition



Getting ready: hot gelatine :)

Timetable of the day:

9.30 Registration

10.00-12.30 Training for all swimmers and teams

12.00-13.00 Sound test for solos and trios

13.00-14.00 Solos and trios' competition

14.00-16.30 Training for combo teams and sound test for duets and combo teams

16.30-18.00 Duets and combo competition

18.00-19.30 Show to raise money for a local charity with all the teams and swimmers from the competition, as well as local synchro teams.

19.30 Medals time!

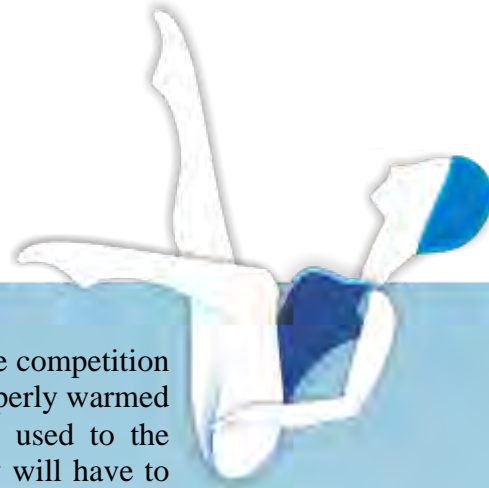
21.00 Visit of a boat organised with all the other teams by the competition committee followed by a diner all together.



The Lyon team and their kit



Just before the competition



The many training sessions during the day of the competition are designed to make sure the swimmers are properly warmed up, but also that they have some time to get used to the swimming pool. This is very important, as they will have to know exactly where they are in the water but also underwater during the routine. They will also need to travel and use the whole space of the pool during the routine, an essential element of the choreography, which can bring quite a few points if done properly.

The experience of being at a competition of this level is very enriching for our swimmers; in fact, some of the teams are composed of national level swimmers, most of whom do sport studies, with around 6h of sport per day, including 2 to 4h of Synchro every day. Seeing them land drilling and swimming is a great experience for our swimmers who can then understand better what is expected of them when training.



Of course taking part in a competition is also the ultimate goal of practicing a sport. You cannot really say that you did synchronised swimming if you never took part in a competition or in a show. This is why this Easter tour is essential for our members because it gives them the opportunity to really see what synchro is all about. They can live the hard preparation before the competition but also experience the friendliness of all the teams during a synchro competition, the tension growing as the days goes by and the time of actually competing comes closer, the adrenaline during the routine, and the mix of exhaustion and exhilaration after it. Moreover they can discover the preparation for a synchro show, with the hair do, the make up, all the presentation before and after doing the routine etc. From all these points of view, our members would lack an essential element in their practice of synchro if they were not able to compete.



The evening was spent with all the other teams who took part in the competition, Bordeaux, Paris, Lyon, Nancy, Metz, Tour, etc. with a visit of a Mexican Sailing boat and a diner organised by the competition committee.

On the Mexican boat



Getting ready involves putting our hair up, putting gelatine on them, adding quite a lot of hair grips and more gelatin before putting a headpiece matching our swimming suit and make up on.

With all the dry gelatine it is quite hard to get all the hair grips off, so teamwork is again the best; good that we are used to working together!



On the boat with most of the other team from the competition and their coaches

The next day (Friday), was supposed to be spent training with Bordeaux's team, but because of problems coordinating with the team from Bordeaux we were not able to do that and had to find something else to do. In insight, we were all so tired from the day before that the training would not have been very efficient; we should have planned for a rest day after the competition, a mistake we will not make in the future.

One of the girls had to leave in the morning to go back to London for a work meeting, and the rest of us spent this day visiting Bordeaux which has a very nice historic centre, and was hosting the boats for a regatta that was about to start (La solitaire du Figaro) and which we enjoyed looking at. In the afternoon, we had organised the visit of a wine castle, Chateau Pape Clément, which is one

of the most renown of the area. We all found the tour very interesting and our members were very happy to have had the opportunity to visit it and discover the art of winemaking. We then left for the Cap Ferret where we spent the night, staying at one of our member's family house.



The boats of the Solitaire du Figaro, a very famous regatta.



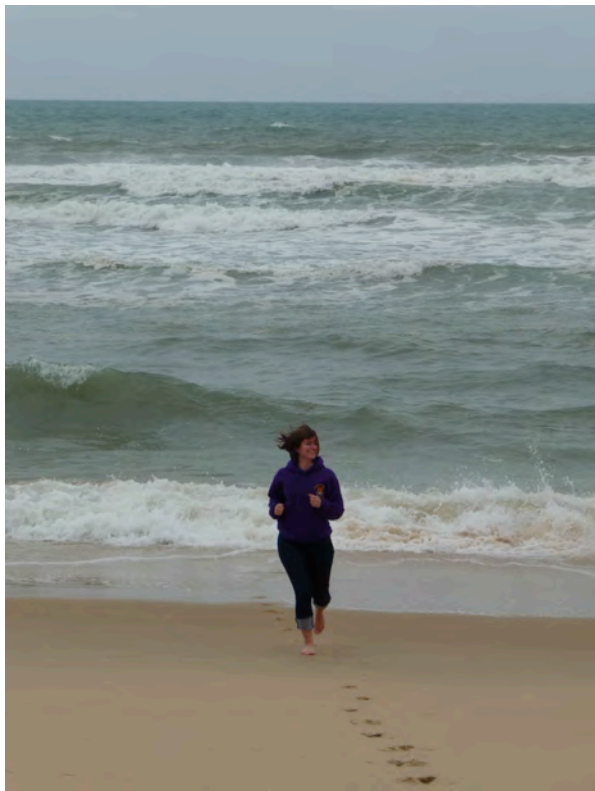
Chateau Pape Clément, the wine castle we visited, is one of the most renown of the Bordeaux area.

The idea for the Saturday was to go swim in the ocean to practice a bit of open water swimming. We did go, but unfortunately the ocean was too unruly (because of the strong wind) for it to be safe to swim behind the waves, where open water swimmers usually swim, and the weather having been unusually bad this spring the water was colder than usual at this time of year (13°C), making it hard to stay in the water more than 5 or 10 minutes.

We did go to 'paddle' a bit in the water, but when our hands turned blue after only 10 minutes in the water it became clear that the waves were only one of the problems, the temperature of the water would have required full-length wetsuits and possibly hoods, and the cold air outside (16°C) did not help warming us up. To make up for the lack of swimming we had a long walk on the beach, quite a good exercise in itself. We then walked around the area, discovering the lovely landscape and the very nice villages, and because the area is renowned for its oysters, we had some oysters from an oyster farm for lunch (and paté or prawns for those who do not like oysters). As Saturday was planned to be the last day of the tour, some of our members left in the evening, taking a late flight, but others had decided to stay one more day.



The ocean, with a lot of wind, and unruly waves



A small jog to warm up...



... and hop in the freezing water.



Happy to be wrapped up in windproof jackets, but still with blue hands



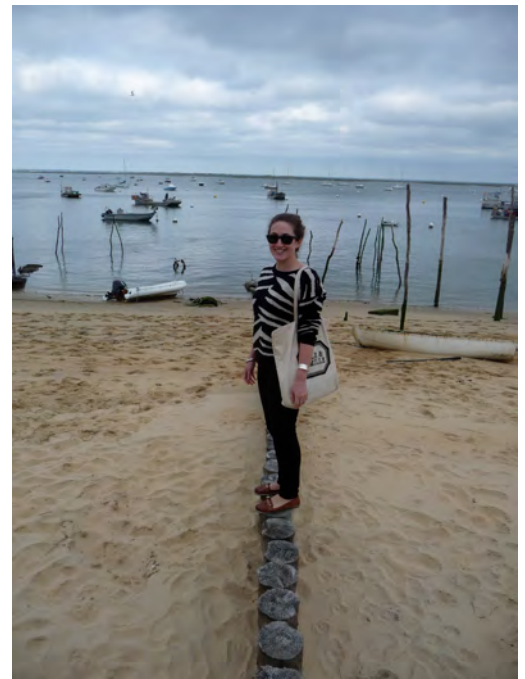
Another swimmer, still a bit blue after walking for a while



Arriving at the point of the cap, with the dune du Pyla behind.



A village of Oyster farmers



The oyster parks



Waiting for oysters to get a bit of energy

A nice fire to warm up in the evening



When we got up on our last day, we finally had very good weather and decided therefore to go to the ocean for open water training. Sadly only three girls were around, because the others had to leave on Saturday for work (Saturday evening was supposed to be the end of the tour). One girl was very ill by then, probably because of the coldness and exhaustion before, and did not take part in the open water training. However, the remaining girls were brave enough to do synchro moves and swim for 30 min in the still 13°C cold water. Longer training was not possible as the cold water affected the blood stream of the girls, who came out with blue lips and hands, and we did not have any warming wetsuits.

After a healthy salad and seafood lunch in the house, we rested from the exhaustion of the days before, evaluated our tour and then prepared everything to fly back home.



Ready, Set,...



...Go!

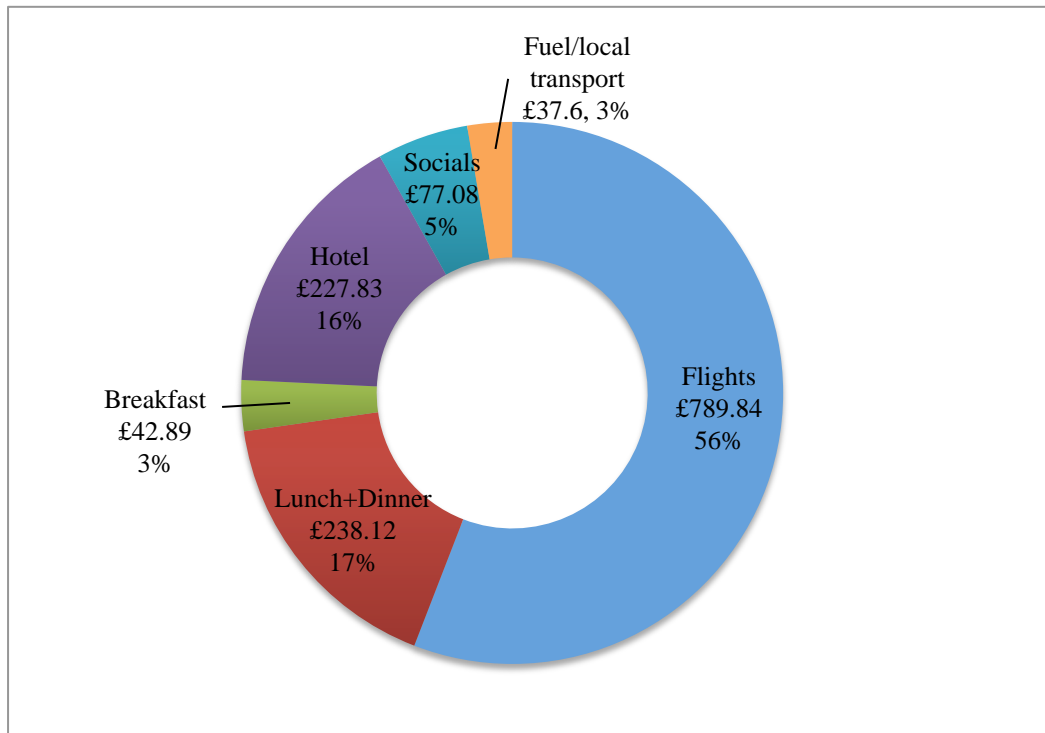
And a few synchro moves.

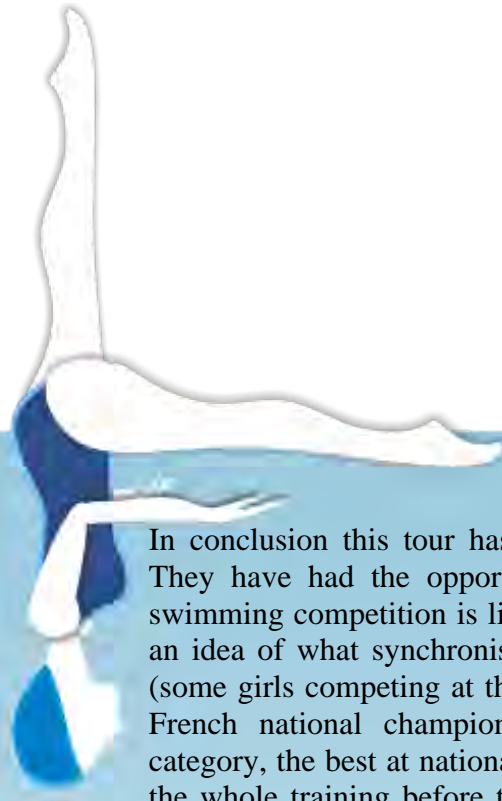


Finances

Our club is very grateful for the support of £379.51 from ICTrust, which made this year's tour possible. This money was used towards flight costs of competing club members and covered about 40 % of the total. However, there was still a very large portion of costs, which our members had to pay by themselves including accommodation, food, local transport/fuel and social event tickets (vineyard tour, after-competition-dinner and boat visit) and the rest of the flight costs.

The graph below gives an overview about the percentages of the costs. The largest portion is given by the transport costs, then food and finally accommodation. In total we have spent £1413.37.





In conclusion this tour has been really positive for our members. They have had the opportunity to discover what a synchronised swimming competition is like, to see what other teams do, and have an idea of what synchronised swimming looks like at a high level (some girls competing at this competition are also competing in the French national championship and some are part of the elite category, the best at national level). They also had the experience of the whole training before the competition, seeing what it is like to train as a team with a common aim and what sacrifices you sometimes have to make in order to achieve that aim.

But more than that, this tour has been a great opportunity for all of our members to have an objective to work towards, helping us speed up improvement thanks to the competition team pushing the rest to train harder. Seeing the team being rewarded with a medal encouraged everyone to work on the routine even harder and showed the members that even just a few months of synchro could be enough to reach a good level.

We hope that we will be able to keep working on that new energy until next year's competition and maybe get even a better result!



**Thanks for funding us and giving us the opportunity to
go on this tour!!**

Silwood Park Climbing Club

Trip Report- France April 6th-12th

Trip Summary

Finding accommodation near Fontainebleau, the original destination of the tour, during the French Easter break proved impossible and nearly resulted in the cancellation of the tour. However, a last minute change in destination allowed the tour to continue, when free accommodation was found in Burgundy, an area further south in France known for its sport climbing venues and (supposedly) good weather. Finding ropes and quickdraws was easy, the guidebooks slightly less so, but all was found and we were ready for a week of climbing in the sun!

The leisurely departure time of 10am on Saturday still proved too early for some, but despite leaving Silwood Park later than planned, the drive went smoothly and we arrived at Dover in plenty of time to catch our ferry to the continent. We were welcomed in Calais by cloud free skies, and though the sun became more elusive the further south we travelled, it did nothing to dampen spirits on our long drive south. Plans for a gourmet dinner were scuppered when we lost our race against the clock to reach our final destination before the shops shut, but otherwise the journey was uneventful.

Sunday dawned bright and sunny, and we headed to the local climbing site of Remigny for what was, for some, their first taste of climbing outside. The hillside at Remigny was once quarried, and the area excavated is now a local climbing hotspot due to the range of long slabby routes that have been bolted in this disused quarry. A leisurely day followed, allowing time for everyone to adjust to suddenly climbing 30m routes instead of the 10m climbs that most of us were used to from indoor climbing at Craggy Island back in the UK. At the end of a successful first day of climbing we returned to the house happy, with everyone having surprised themselves by climbing higher graded routes than they had thought possible.

The weather was less forgiving on Monday, with angry skies promising wet weather. Not to be deterred, the group left for Cormot, the largest crag in the Burgundy region, in the hope that a) the weather would clear up, or b) the overhanging climbs at the crag would be shielded from the rain. Sadly, neither were to be the case. The weather stayed dry just long enough for Sam and Will to start up their first routes of the day, before a sudden downpour caused a quick retreat back to a cave at the bottom of the crag where we had lunch and pondered our options. The weather looked to be brightening up in the afternoon, so we went for a wander to search for some shorter climbs that may have dried out. The rain threatened to spoil our day again, but eventually we plucked up the courage to start up some short routes on the other side of the valley to the main crag. The weather held long enough for the first complete lead climb of the day, but again the heavens opened, leaving climbers dangling from their ropes, wondering what we had done to deserve the rain. Eventually we forced a retreat back to the house, and lifted our spirits with some French wine and melted Brie cheese!

Tuesday morning dawned much like the previous day, and so wary of Monday's damp adventures, we held fire on the climbing front until it looked as though the weather was brightening up. We headed out to the exposed hilltop of Mont Rome, thinking that the wind would blow any bad

weather over us quickly and dry the rock, leaving us free to enjoy the many great climbs at this climbing area. We were right on one front at least...the wind at the crag was fierce! We took this to be a good sign and found a nice small slab climb to warm up on. Sadly, the wind was not sufficient to get rid of the driving rain heading our way, and again, the day was cut short by rain, with most people only having a six-metre slab climb under their belt as their achievement for the day.

Having looked at the weather forecast a few days earlier, we knew that Wednesday was going to be our best shot for getting a full day of climbing in, so we rose bright and early to head over to the village of Fixin, at the bottom of a wooded valley edged by a long escarpment. The sun came out to play, and so did we, with everyone climbing more routes in one day than the rest of the trip combined. Clouds threatened at lunchtime, precipitating the decision to go for a walk to explore the area rather than risk being 20 metres up a cliff when the heavens opened, but our fears were unfounded. We continued climbing until both the sun, and our arms, gave out, and headed back to the house for a mammoth meal of pasta to replenish our energy.

On Thursday we paid for our full day of climbing the previous day by waking up to a torrential rain stop. Still on a high, we decided to head up the road to scope out another climbing venue. The relatively high altitude of the crag at Bouilland meant that we had trouble even finding the cliff edge as we were in the clouds, and when we finally did, we were unsurprised to see that although slugs and snails were able to ascent the crag, we definitely were not. The cloud made the area feel very atmospheric and so we continued to follow the cliff through some Jurassic park-esque scenery until the rain (and for some, too much wine the night before) forced an end to the walk. We gave up on hopes of climbing and retreated back to the house for a relaxed morning, before heading out to Beaune, the nearest town. We spent the afternoon walking around the town and moving from restaurant to cake shop, before returning, having eaten far more cakes than were good for us, to the house to pack and prepare for our journey home the following morning.

Despite less than perfect weather throughout the trip, most of us managed to climb almost every day. With everyone climbing routes of a higher grade on the first day than they typically climb indoors back in the UK, the trip undoubtedly provided the opportunity to increase their technical abilities. Climbing indoors often requires much less thought as to how to tackle a climb, as all the holds you need are brightly coloured and can be traced from the bottom of the wall. Climbing outside is very different, with no right or wrong way to tackle the same climb. The rock in Burgundy is full of little pockets and crimps that no climber will use in exactly the same way, and everybody on the trip noticeably improved their technique throughout the course of the week, switching from using only the large, obvious holds on a route to a more rounded style utilising smaller, more technical holds. Although the tour was originally intended to provide participants with an experience of bouldering outside, the varied styles of the climbs in Burgundy allowed everyone to develop similar skills on sport routes to those that we may have gained if we had visited our original destination in Fontainebleau.

Financial breakdown

Expense	Cost
Ferry	£110

Fuel	£160.94
Motorway Tolls	£86.96
Items for driving in Europe (light benders, GB sticker, reflective jackets)	£11.98
TOTAL COST	£369.88

Iceland Tour Report 25th May 2013

Iceland is ostensibly a wilderness in northern Europe, most famous in recent years for un-manageable economic expansion, subsequent bankruptcy and the Eyjafjallajökull volcanic eruption which grounded all European flights for a few days in 2010.

It is little known as a diving destination. Preferring to explore the colder reaches of Europe, Giulia, JD, Stefan and Barbora headed to Iceland over the late May bank holiday weekend.

Flights were arranged through Wow air (Gatwick) and Easyjet (Luton). Although we arrived very late the long days at this time of year mean lots of time for exploration and easy pickup of the hire 4x4, an ageing Suzuki Vitara with 155000km from the car rental SadCars!



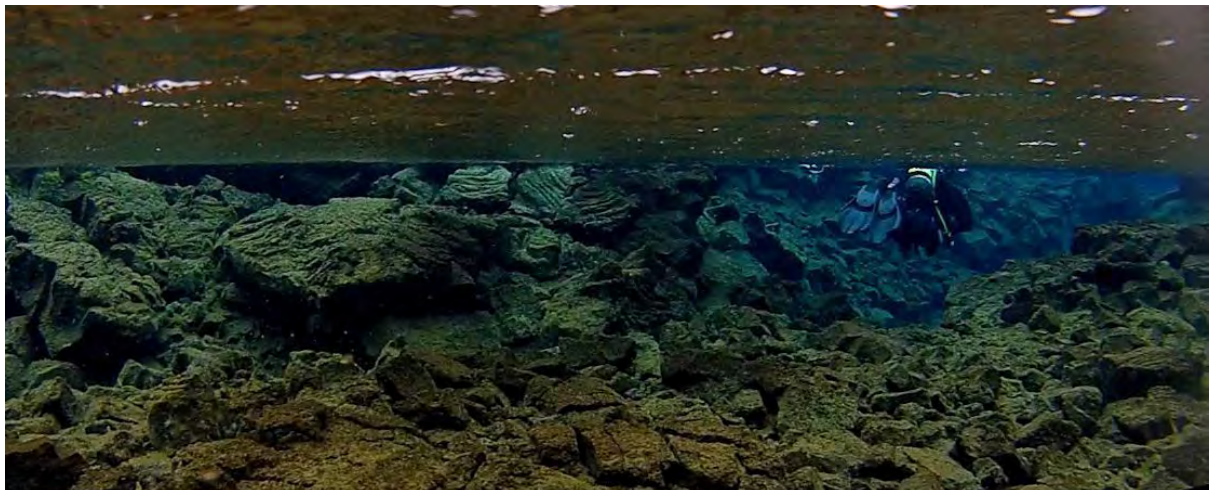
SAD CARS - A bit muddy

Throughout the week we stayed in the Icelandic hostels. The total cost of accommodation for the 5 nights was approximately £110. The quality was variable from the prison cell atmosphere at the backpacker 'hanger' in Reykjavik to the immaculate and deserted hostels of Laugarvatn and Akureyri.

The first day we were scheduled to dive with a local dive company called Scuba Iceland. The dive was at Silfra crack, a famous dive site known for its crystal clear visibility, cold water and the ability to swim between the American and Eurasian continents drifting apart at approximately 2cm per year.



Silfra



Silfra is a difficult and interesting dive, despite the dive schools training students there, it is a challenge. There are effectively three sections the entrance area, known as the toilet! The middle zone is where you are able to see the continental split most clearly.

Finally, the exit lagoon, where in good visibility a near perfect reflection can be seen on the water's surface when looking up from beneath. The dive is in glacial fresh water with a temperature varying from 2 to 4 degrees. Drysuits are mandatory and we all wore 3 fingered 5mm mittens which were effective at keeping our hands warm. However, after about 25mins the cold can really be felt!

Initially, we had planned to also dive St. David's Crack, a 15 min walk from Silfra. However, conditions were poor so a second dive was taken at Silfra but in reverse, starting at the lagoon and exiting in the toilet. This gave the most stunning views of the intercontinental split.

As the diving was only part of the experience, after Silfra we headed to Geysir through the Thingvellir national park and back to a vast crater left by a dormant volcano. Iceland is still in active geological development and therefore, it is an exciting place for geologists and those who seek an outdoors experience.



Geysir

The following day was a connection day to our next set of dives in the north of Iceland. We headed west to the Snæfellsjökull peninsular taking in some amazing sites before heading over the high mountain passes to, Akureyri the northern capital of Iceland.

The following days diving were the most interesting. Meeting the Strytan dive centre at Hjalteyri we headed out to the geothermal chimneys discovered by our guide Erlendur on his Icelandic rescue rib. The first dive was on the protected chimney of Arnarnesstrytur, despite the washing machine effects under the surface the dive had

massive life, lump-suckers and a free swimming Wolf-fish who was very excited to see us. The dive culminated in the collection of boiling fresh water from the undersea vent in a thermos for the consumption on the boat as hot chocolate!



Strytan dive centre

The final dive was on the Strytan chimneys. These rise from the sea floor from 70m to about 15m. We were diving the largest of the chimneys set down over millions of years as the magnesium sulphate is extracted from the fresh spring water as it meets the salt waters of the fjord. This was again a difficult dive, with amazing life. The experience with the Strytan dive centre was unique, compared to Silfra which attracts 15000 divers per year, this area was limited to about 300 divers per year. Heading out into the fjord on a rib with the snow covered mountains on either side is an experience few see.

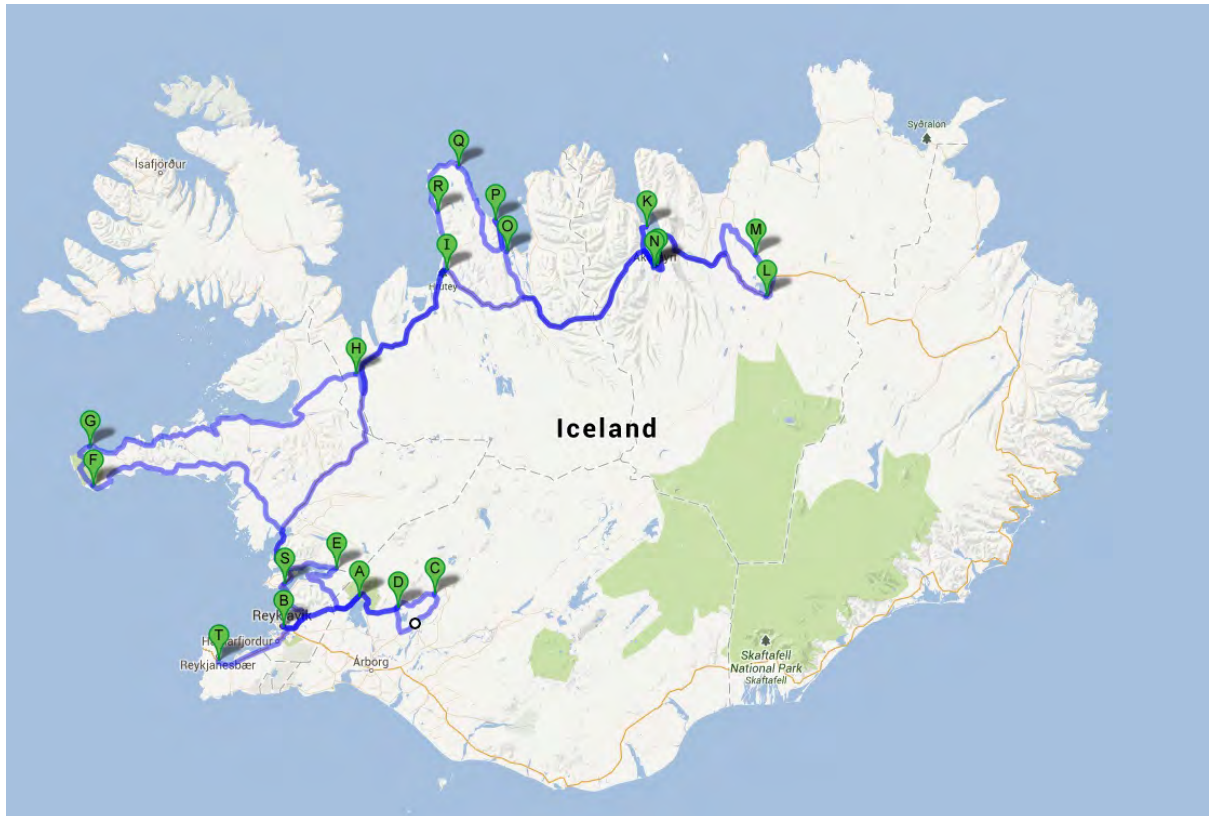
After diving we continued north to a solidified lava lake, the underground hot spring, the Sulphuric acid pools and the top of a glacier.

The final day we had to head back to Reykjavik, via a very remote hot spring pool and a detour to the 66th parallel. Meeting Barbara's friend in Reykjavik for a banana! and olive pizza was a nice way to conclude the tour.



Hot Spring

In summary, Iceland is an amazing place where 5 days is not enough time to visit all the unusual places. It was not a 'cheap' trip but the depth of experience made it one of the most memorable trips I have taken in the last 10 years of diving.



Road Trip – 1700km

Approximate cost breakdown.

Diving £330

Vehicle, Fuel, food, hostels £290

Flights £185

Thanks to Giulia for organising, Stefan for portable coffee, and Barbora for our non-diving itinerary.

Visit Iceland. One life...Live it.

James Duncan 1/6/13

Links for Planning

<http://www.scuba.is/>

<http://www.strytan.is/>

<http://sadcars.com/en>

<http://wowiceland.co.uk/>

<http://www.hihostels.com/web/index.en.htm>

More Pictures:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/james.lyon.duncan/Iceland#> (JD)

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hpy1thf0x07qoxl/xXlP_ymv0S#/ (Giulia)

Tour Report: ICSMFC NAMS Tournament (Newcastle)

The tour took place 22nd – 24th March with the main purpose being participation in the National Association of Medical Schools (NAMS) annual Football tournament being held in Newcastle. 16 members attended. We drove up on the Friday, had a short training session in a local park and then went for a team meal.

The next morning was the tournament itself. We remained unbeaten however too many draws in our group saw us fail to progress through to the knockout stages. This was quite disappointing as we felt that over 90 minutes we could have stuffed the opposition teams however the 20minute games and the ridiculous weather conditions unsettled us. Despite our frustration we decided to enjoy the rest of our time in Newcastle. We went for another club meal after the tournament then had a quiet night in.

Financially our members personally covered pretty much all of the cost detailed in our tour budget. We hired a college minibus for the weekend - £242, then drove it to Newcastle and back – around £200 fuel. Tournament entry was £320, hostel stay was £32 per person and various additional spend on food and drink. We were also very grateful to receive £90 from the IC trust towards our costs.

Despite the disappointment of an early tournament exit, no-one begrudged the 14 hour round trip. All of our tourists enjoyed their time in Newcastle immensely and it was a good bonding trip if nothing else. Perhaps this team spirit came in handy in securing the double league triumphs our 1st XI achieved in their BUCS and LUSL leagues this year.

ICMC Easter Tour: Wales

24th March-1st April 2013

The trip got off to a good start with everyone turning up on time at Beit. The car and bus were packed and we set off to Wales via a Sainsburys at around 2pm. We arrived at the hut hassle free, at about 11pm. The next day marked the first day of climbing. With the LLanberis pass being closed, going to Tramadog had to be cancelled and instead an attempt was made to climb some of the boulders at the roadside crag in the Cromlech. Here it was very cold and windy so the party quickly bailed into the bus stop quarry for a spot of easy sport climbing.



'I had a great time' Will Macleod

Day 2 saw successful passage to Tramadog and the first day of trad climbing. Novices were introduced to the world of multi pitch trad, climbing with more experienced members of the trip. A pleasant time was had by all, pootling up some HS's. Meanwhile the boulderers were climbing around the Bustach boulders with Will climbing his first V7. Once everyone had reconvened at Tremadog, the bus took people back to the hut and the car took some boulderers off to Elephantitus for an evening session seeing a few more hard sends.

Day 4 was a rest day spent wandering about gear shops and staring at rocks from a distance.

Day 5 split the tour into sport climbers and boulderers. The sport climbers were dropped off at the Castle Inn and the boulderers found themselves the cave. Everyone had a good day enjoying yet another improbably dry day. The boulderers suffered defeats across the board and vowed to return to finish projects.



Will Macleod Climbing with Ropes

Day 6 was a return to the Cromlech where Jo eventually sent her first V6 but in general it was too cold for most people. That evening we retired to Ben's house in southern Snowdonia as the hut became unavailable. The following day was spent resting, biking and slack lining here in secluded central wales.

Day 8 again split the tour, the sport climbers dropped at Penmaen Head where Milkins sent his first 6b outdoors. The boulderers returned to battle in the cave with partial success. Jack just missed out on his V9 project, Jordan sent Clever Beaver V7, Chris climbed something hard and Ben sent his first V9, Rock Atrocity. All in all a respectable tick list.

Day 9 was our last, making it back to Beit by 9:30pm.

Overall the trip was a success, especially as the destination had to be changed at such short notice due to the lack of drivers. The trip was very cheap and we made the most of very fortunate weather. All the novices were introduced to multi pitch trad climbing and the trip maintained a relaxed feeling. Honourable mention to Chris, without his solo bus driving effort, the trip would not have been possible.



Will Macleod Climbing without a rope, a true all-rounder

Full list of Attendees

Ben Coope
Jordan Ford
Jack Beanland
Chirs Hunt
Bernie Wilkins
Jakov Marelic
Jo Robbings
Will Macleod
Rosana Nicols
Alex Card

Finances

The trip cost a total of £1031.79, travel cost a total of £686.08 which is less than was originally budgeted for so only £257.28 of the funding was calculated as 37.5% of the travel cost of the trip. The trip then cost members a total of £83 each. These figures are before the Union's retrospective moderation.

Difficulties & Objectives

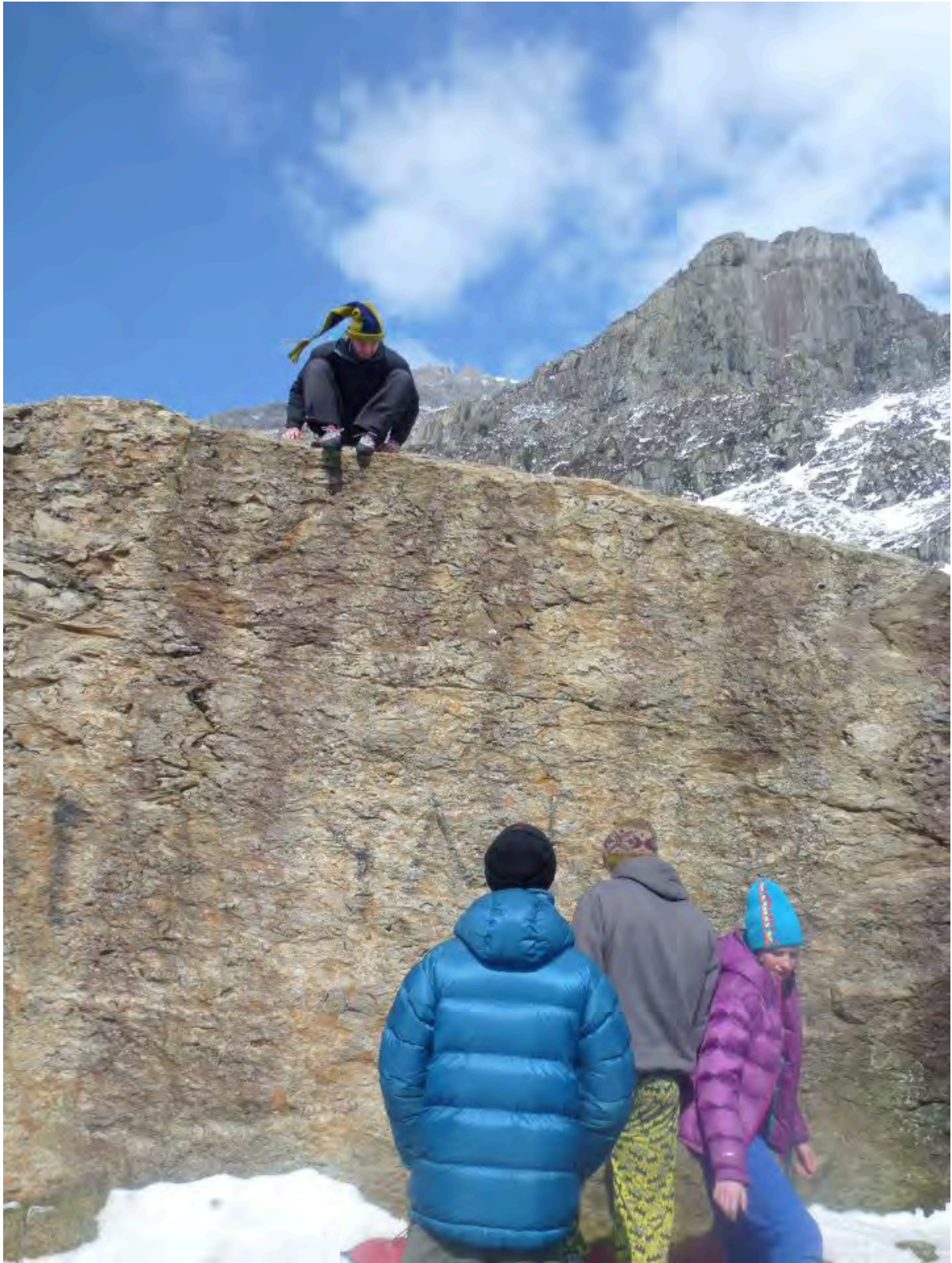
Due to mass drop out of drivers in the closing stages of organising the tour, the trip was almost cancelled but instead was rapidly switched to Wales at the last minute. This led to the tour being, initially, quite disorganised. However, given the circumstances, the trip went as well as can be expected; with Christopher Hunt offering to do all of the driving and Benjamin Coope donating the use of his car. We managed to climb every day that we weren't resting, there were no injuries and everyone had a great time. All the novices gained experience in climbing outdoors and the trip was run to the slimmest of budgets.

Assorted photos











ACC Golf Club

Spring Tour 2013

We had 8 full members on tour which took place between 15th and 17th March.

We played a practice round on the Friday on La Foret golf course. The next day we played 2 matches on La Mer golf course. We won 6.5 to 5.5.

The tour was funded by student contribution, sponsorship and a fundraising day with alumni. It achieved all the aims and objective we set out to.

We had to change the golf courses last minute due to lots of snow in Northern France at the time but we adjusted very well. The members who went have all spoke of how the chance to play a different style of course and against older opposition has really improved their game with the extra experience they now have.

We had no issues whilst on tour - the biggest issue was the change of golf course but was sorted out before we left the country.

To improve the tour in future we would like to attract more members as it was such a good experience, we offered it to all paid members of the club so hopefully with reports of how well it went we will be able to encourage more to join us on any future tours.

Edward Norman

Club Captain



Natural History Club Spring Tour Report

1. A full financial breakdown of the tour

The bunkhouse for 10 people for 3 nights cost a total of £360

Breakfast, tea and coffee supplies cost £42.95

The minibus hire for the weekend cost £220

There were no other club costs

2. A day by day account of what occurred ie activities etc

We arrived late on the Friday night, so we went to a local pub for food (paid for my the members individually).

On Saturday morning we got up incredibly early to try and find a black grouse lekking site. Unfortunately, although we were in the correct location, we only saw one male. However, we saw a few smaller birds. After breakfast we took a short walk by a stream near the bunkhouse. In the afternoon we went to a local reservoir and walked up the nearby hillside. We saw a large number of buzzards, and mountain hares (in both summer and winter coats). Afterwards we took a short walk up another river, and found a large number of mating frogs in one of the streams. In the evening we went to the pub for dinner (again, members paid for their own food).

On the Sunday we left the bunkhouse a little later, and went to a hillside to try and see some goshawks displaying. We saw some impressive displays, as well as a few fights between an adult goshawk and a juvenile goshawk. Again the day was ended with a meal in a local pub.

The final morning, after cleaning the bunkhouse, we went to Chatsworth House and had a walk around their extended fields as there had been reports of a rare bird in the area (a grey shrike). Luckily we managed to find the bird, before we set off on the road home.

3. Number of members attending (full and not full members)

There were 10 people in total. 8 were full members, 2 were non-members. We had 2 people drop out last minute, so their deposits (£20 each) were included in the budget. Unfortunately we did not get the numbers originally planned as many, despite expressing interest, never signed up and paid their deposit.

4. Dates of the tour

We arrived in the peak district on 5th April and left 8th April.

5. Did it achieve the aims and objectives as laid out in the proposal

I believe that the tour did meet the aims and objectives set out in the original proposal, as we saw a plethora of wildlife over the 3 days. We were unfortunate that there was a cold spell just before the weekend, as this did reduce the number of animals we could have seen, but nevertheless, all the people on the tour had a great time.

6. Were there any changes to the proposed aims or activities

There were no changes to the proposed aims and activities.

7. Any major issues that arose whilst on tour

There were no major issues whilst on the tour. Everything went to plan, and everyone had a great time!

Helen Phillips

Imperial College Canoe Club

Easter Tour 2013: Corsica

1. Introduction

Between the 22nd March and 1st April 2013 Imperial College Canoe Club held their annual Easter Tour. The destination selected was Corsica, a beautiful Mediterranean island famous for its stunning scenery and steep, fast flowing rivers. Although Corsica is a well known kayaking destination the difficulty of its rivers and unpredictable water levels mean that few club trips are attempted from the UK. However, it was proved that there is plenty of excellent paddling to be done for all levels paddler, and over the ten day trip the group managed to paddle 10 sections of fantastic whitewater. This trip report aims to give a flavour of the experiences we had.



Figure 1: ICCC in Corsica (Photo: Tom Leeman)

2. Attendees

1. Thomas 'Cautious' Leeman
2. Joseph 'Riverbed Survey' Bibby
3. Patrick 'Fresher' Stirling
4. Reece 'Boat Destroyer' Blunt
5. Martin 'Passport' Baker
6. Joe 'Stoic' Freeman
7. Patrick 'Hardcore' Clissold
8. Adam 'Park bench' Holland
9. Robert 'Lost' Macrae
10. Ally 'Fun radio' Cott
11. Rory 'iPad' Fyffee



Figure 2: A typical Corsican rapid (Photo: Adam Holland)

3. Finances

A breakdown of the finances for the trip is presented in Table 1 below. The cost of transportation was somewhat above that expected, due to complications involving the logistics for the trip. Funding is excluded from the Table, however a total of 279.36 was allocated to the club. This equates to an average of 25 each, meaning that the average final total trip cost per person was approximately £470.

Table 1: Finances

Item	Total Cost (£)	Cost per Person (£)
Transport	3898	355
Food	785	71
Accommodation	670	61
Miscellaneous	100	9
Total Cost	5455	496



Figure 3: A Corsican vista (Photo: Patrick Clissold)

4. Diary

4.1. Friday 22nd March

Easter tour 2013 started surprisingly smoothly, despite some extremely complicated logistics. With three cars loaded (only two of which would make the long journey across France) we left on time with nearly all the right equipment. Despite Joe claiming he was upset about his paddles being forgotten, he was secretly delighted about being provided with such a good opportunity to moan so early on. Sam and his parents very kindly offered us a place to stay on Friday night to break up the journey and after watching a few kayaking movies the team settled in for the night.

4.2. Saturday 23rd March

Saturday began at 2:30 am with some seriously awesome bacon sandwiches. Unfortunately the awesomeness of the sandwiches meant the team temporarily forgot why they had got up so early. This left us with the somewhat improbable task of getting to Dover in less than an hour, all hopes of which were dashed when Sam's roof rack made an attempt to part company with the rest of his car. With this fixed the team got back on the road and made it to the Corsican ferry just in time, travelling the length of France in a blur of hidden thimbles, moaning and awful stories. On the ferry we met the rest of the group who had driven from Portsmouth and settled down for the twelve hour crossing.

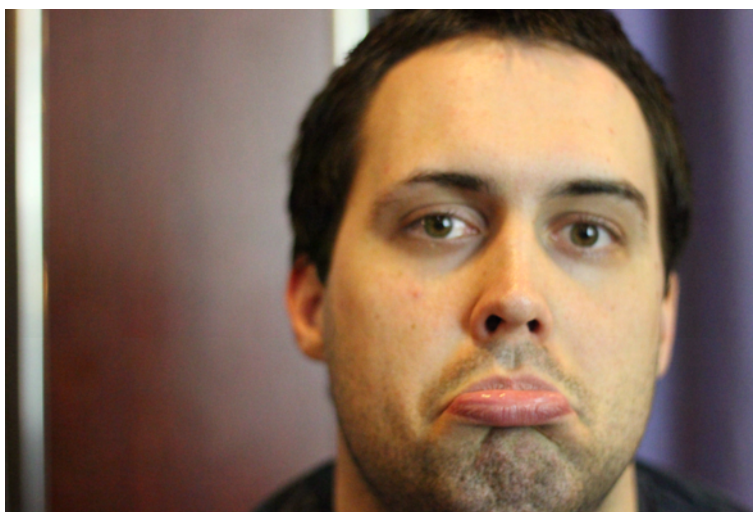


Figure 4: Only 12 hours left...(Photo: Tom Leeman)

4.3. Sunday 24th March

After 38 hours of solid travelling we finally made it to Corsica on Sunday morning. After such a long journey everyone was excited about finally being able to get in their boats, so an ambitious two river plan was hatched. First off the club decided to whet its teeth on the Lower Golo, a fantastic Alpine grade 3 section through beautiful countryside. We quickly realised that levels were somewhat high, as quite a lot of the river was running through the trees making for an exciting opening run. Only minimal carnage ensued...



(a) The club (Photo: Patrick Clissold)



(b) Reece (Photo: Tom Leeman)

Figure 5: The Middle Golo

With the Middle Golo successfully ticked off the group split into two, with some electing to head to the slightly harder upper section whilst the rest went back for a second run. The Middle proved to be more of a classic Corsican creek with beautifully clean bedrock drops set against a dramatic backdrop of snowy mountains. Tom decided early on that scouting wasn't necessary for anyone else and sent the rest of the group blind into what turned out to be a tricky grade V rapid. Adam took a refreshing dip and required help from Patrick to escape from a scary body surf. Luckily it all turned out OK and the only casualty was all faith in Tom's river leading. We got off the river about 5 minutes before nightfall and headed to the nearest campsite, which would become our base for the rest of the trip. Robert finally met the rest of the group here due to a slight miscommunication.



Figure 6: The Campsite (Photo: Patrick Clissold)

4.4. Monday 25th March

This was the first day on which the group split in two. Patrick, Adam, Joe and Tom elected to run the Calasima, a tributary of the Golo which only runs in high water years. The rest of the club opted for the Asco, a larger river in the next valley across.

At the put in for the Calasimai we met lots of German paddlers, who we assumed we could follow down the river and hitch a ride back up the long shuttle with. It turned out that they were very strong paddlers who clearly knew the river. Six hours of tough paddling and portaging later the light was totally gone, we had no food or water and no way of communicating with the others that we didn't have a ride. Patrick and Adam therefore elected to walk the 10km or so back to the van, unfortunately Adam succumbed to an overwhelming urge to sleep on a park bench leaving Patrick to complete the hike alone.



Figure 7: Patrick on the Calasima (Photo: Adam Holland)

Meanwhile, the group on the Asco were having some excitement of their own. They arrived at the river to find levels somewhat on the high side, but after careful roadside inspection decided that it all looked good to go. The group picked their way down some big water grade IV rapids and almost got off the river without incident but for the very last drop. It was here that Reece decided the rest of his group really needed some chase boating practice and so popped his deck. What ensued in somewhat difficult to work out, but made Joe extremely happy. The end result was that all paddlers were (eventually) reunited with their each other and their equipment, but at a terrible cost. Reece's swim had caused Tom's boat (which he had very kindly been lent) to suffer a huge crack. This required half a boat in spare plastic to weld but was eventually fixed.

4.5. Tuesday 26th March

Following the exciting of the previous day it was decided to find a somewhat more relaxed paddle. The Tavingango gorge was chosen, a class IV big water run which became a firm favourite for the group. A heinous portage around a large dam did not provide the ideal start to the river, but what followed was a spectacular series of rapids, culminating in a sheer sided gorge containing fantastic read and run whitewater. The high levels added to the excitement but the river remained manageable for all of the group. The only real carnage of the day was a swim from Robert, but that was quickly sorted out.



Figure 8: Adam in the Tavingagno Gorge (Photo: Patrick Clissold)

Some of the group opted for a second run down the gorge, proving the mantra 'second run, twice the fun' to be true.

4.6. Wednesday 27th March

The tour again decided to split, with some paddlers opting for the tricky Middle Vecchio whilst the rest headed to the lower section. The middle proved to be another excellent Corsican classic, with its pristine water providing plenty of clean drops and boofs. It was run in super quick time with minimal faff.

The lower was somewhat easier than the rivers that we had run up until that point and so provided an opportunity for a well earned rest as well as some valuable river leading practice. Having successfully manouvered past the entire of Corsican fire service who also seemed to be scouting the river the run ran down through a wide open valley, with occasional grade III rapids.



Figure 9: Second run twice the fun (Photo: Patrick Clissold)

Deciding that this wasn't enough excitement for the day, team intermediate decided to paddle the Tavingango gorge again. Unfortunately, the third time didn't end up going quite so smoothly. All was well until Jo decided paddling was for wimps just above the main event. What followed involved solo chase boating, an unpleasant walk out and several boats floating down the river. Everyone eventually got themselves sorted out and we were able to finish the river without any further problems.

4.7. Thursday 28th March

Having paddled the rivers close to the campsite it was decided to try the west of the island, a region sparsely inhabited and away from the major tourist hot spots. Despite finding a turtle farm we kept on task and two hours on epically windy roads later and we reached the put in for the Cruzzinni. Following a traditional paddling lunch (French bread and cheese) two of the cars set off on what turned out to be a shuttle that took nearly as long as the run. The river began as scrappy grade II but quickly became good clean grade III+ paddling with only one major portage. On the way back to base Sam decided that so much driving was getting far too boring and so decided to take on a large landslip at 40mph. Fortunately his car was more than up to the challenge and it seemed no permanent damage was inflicted. Following a super late drive back it was decided that the pizza establishment 'Chez Tony' required investigation. What we found was like a scene from a gangster film, well Corsica does have the highest murder rate in Europe...



Figure 10: Ally finds a new friend (Photo: Adam Holland)

4.8. Friday 29th March

On Friday the group split for the final time, with team intermediate heading out with Patrick whilst the others went to have a look at the Travo, Corsica's number one classic run. On the way to this river however they received a slightly worrying phone call which involved the words: 'OK, well at least its not on fire any more'. It turned out that the brakes on Sam's car had become jammed on and consequently become rather toasty, leading to much excitement for those inside. The decision was taken to ignore this news and look at the Travo anyway. After an hour of umming and aahing the group wisely decided the levels were a bit too high so ran away to the Fium Orbo instead. This proved to be a lovely section of yet more tight and technical creeking, deep within the Corsican mountains. Unfortunately everyone became a little over enthusiastic, leading to a heinous

walk out up an extremely steep cliff to reach the road from where Tom hitched back to the car.



Figure 11: Road trip! (Photo: Tom Leeman)

4.9. *Saturday 30th March*

Saturday was the last day of paddling on Corsica and with torrential rain it was decided to attempt one of the larger rivers on the island, the Gravona. At the put on it was brown and fast flowing, but the guidebook said it wasn't too difficult so the group decided to press ahead. What followed was several kilometers of paddling through trees (perhaps it was a little too high) and down some non stop class III/IV rapids - true spate kayaking. Following a short swim from Martin Joe decided to get off, to be collected later on. This proved to be earlier than any of us thought when the river began to rise significantly and enter some much more difficult water. The wise decision was taken to get off and return back to the campsite for tea and medals.

4.10. *Sunday 31st March*

The last day on the island was spent packing up the campsite and preparing for the long journey home. We had a ferry booked to Italy this time, so the drive would be even longer than on the way out. However, we didn't need to sleep on a ferry this time and the good weather made the island look fantastic. Sam's car decided to have an episode again, briefly locking up the front brakes but luckily no fire this time.



Figure 12: On the ferry home (Photo: Tom Leeman)

After the short ferry crossing the cars made their own way back to Calais. Team Volvo made a quick stop in Pisa to visit the tower and to snap the obligatory photo whilst the others powered on. Europe takes a really long time to drive through...



Figure 13: Obligatory tower of Pisa photo (Photo: Tom Leeman)

4.11. Monday 1st April

A really really long time to drive through. After some more driving and another short ferry (we got really good at ferries) everyone arrived safely back in London by the end of Monday. It was a really fantastic trip, and thanks go to Patrick Clissold and Sam Heaton for transport and advice on kayaking.

Report compiled by Thomas Leeman



Olympos — Sunrise at the Beach

Imperial College Easter Tour 2013

Olympos, Turkey

General Information

This year, the Outdoor Club went to Olympos for our annual Easter Tour. As every year our priority in choosing the location was a wide range of activities within a close radius. This year, our members enjoyed sport climbing in the sun, rafting in the backcountry of Antalya and hiking above the Mediterranean. As much as we all love the welsh mountains, outdoor sports in sunny 25°C are simply much more fun and everyone truly enjoyed the week in the quiet and tranquil surroundings of Olympos.

Dates — 23 March to 31 March

Attendees —

1. Harry Milner
2. Christopher Bowles
3. Lee Shyen Lee
4. Andris Piebalgs
5. Daniel Wong
6. Claudia Schulz
7. Philip Burling
8. Harriet Hilson
9. Nadia Tyler-Rubenstein
10. Benajmin Krusche
11. Fabian Fuchs
12. German Sibay
13. Angela de Manzanos
14. Jessica Wunder
15. Andreas Fieber

Finances —

Every member had to pay between £175 to £225 for the return flights to Antalya with Turkish Airlines and Easyjet. Each night at Bayrams Tree House was 40TL per person (~£15) and included breakfast and dinner. The rafting trip was 60TL (~£22) per person for those who wanted to join. These costs were covered by the individual members. From the IC Trust, we received £1466.78. The airport shuttle for 350TL (~£125) each way was covered by this money and the remaining funds were split evenly between all members to subsidise the flights and accommodation costs.

Tour Diary

Saturday 23rd March - Arriving in Turkey

As everyone tried to find the cheapest option to fly to Antalya, it was not surprising that we did not all arrive at the same time with the hundreds of different offers found online. While some of us arrived at 23:00 in the evening and played cards at Antalya Airport, others only made it to Turkey by 1:00 the next morning. An organised airport transfer from the hostel brought us safely to Olympos by around 2:30 in the morning.

Sunday 24th March - First Day Climbing

Despite the short night, we were all motivated to make an early start and enjoy the first proper sunshine of the year. After an amazing breakfast we had to walk a whole 5 minutes to reach a beautiful hidden crag in a dried river bed. Everyone eventually joined Harry and Andi who made the earliest start. The crag had several easier grades allowing everyone to gently get into the mood, but more importantly, Chris and some of the other more experienced members could teach our sport climbing novices. In the evening, we all met around the open fire in Bayrams Tree House to make plans for the following day.

Monday 25th March - Cennet, Climbing above the Mediterranean



Cennet — Fabian Enjoying the View at the Top of Cennet

Again, the whole group managed to make a relatively early start and pair by pair gathered at the bottom of Cennet - a 50m vertical wall located directly above the Mediterranean. The climbing was spectacular, starting with a few easy climbs in the sun and then moving to more challenging routes in the cool shade. After a long day, a dip into the sea was more than just refreshing with water temperatures below 20°C.

Tuesday 26th March - Cirali and the Beach

While most climbing near Bayrams featured vertical and overhanging routes, a short 40 minute walk along the beach and up the next valley opened new possibilities: slab routes. The majority of us headed over Cirali to try these out, while Ben and Nadia stayed near the hostel to wait for Angela who was only arriving today due to a conference in London over the weekend. The slab routes in Cirali required a completely different climbing technique and, not to everyone's liking, a lot more confidence and guts. On the way back, a stop at one of the small beach cafes for a refreshing orange juice was obligatory.



Slab Climbing in Cirali

Wednesday 27th March - The Cave and the Chimaera Flames

Angela and Andi decided to go for a pre-breakfast morning run along the beach. Despite being a bit too late for sunrise, the effort was rewarded with the amazing view of a dolphin swimming across the quiet bay. After breakfast, which was as good as everyday, different groups headed out to different crags, some wanted the sun, some tried to purposely avoid it. Fabian made himself a promise. By the end of the trip he would manage to climb this spectacular route in the cave directly opposite Bayrams. Well, he only needed a few days. After a felt 29831 tries, he finally managed the 6c+.

After dinner, we all walked to the Chimaera flames. After 1.5 hours we reached a small opening on a hillside and out of nowhere, several flames shot out of the ground - a spectacular sight. Everyone felt content while enjoying their cold beer after a long day.



Chimaera Flames - Everyone Fascinated by the Spectacular Sight

Thursday 28th March - Rafting, Resting (for some), Climbing (for others)

While 6 of us simply could not resist the incredible climbing, Ben and German managed to organise a rafting trip. Joined by 4 guys from Southampton University Outdoor Club who also stayed at our hostel and two American girls travelling Europe, a minibus of 12 headed for the only white water around Antalya - a good 3 hours drive away. Judging their big smiles when they returned just in time for dinner later that evening, the drive was worth it.



Bayrams Tree House

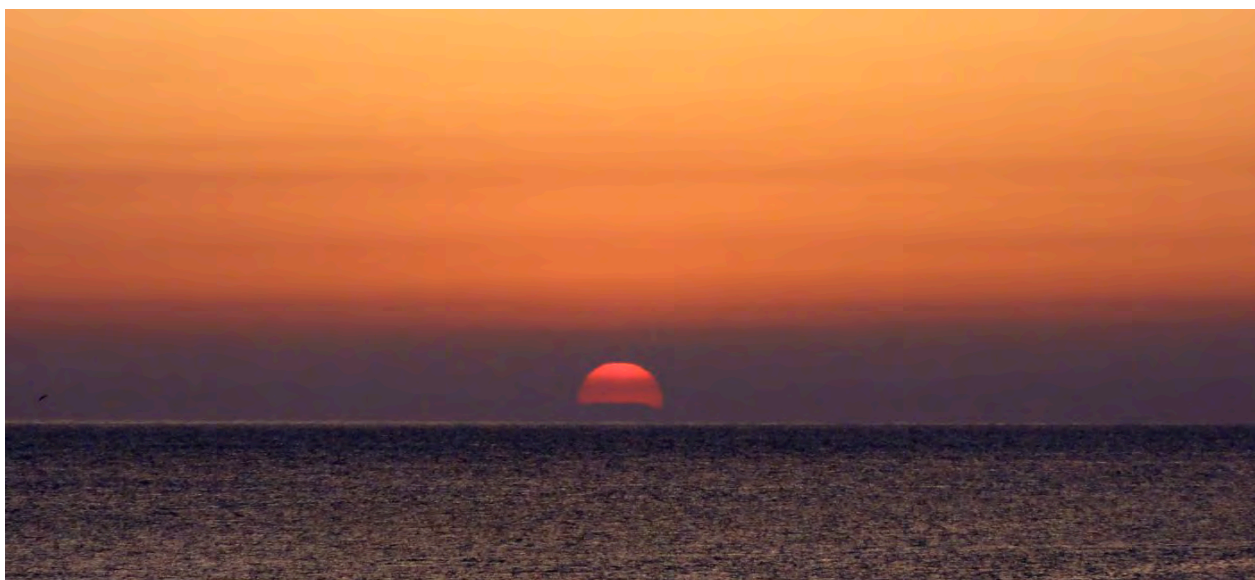
Friday 29th March - Hiking, Rest Day (for others) and Climbing (for some)

Chris, Dan, Harry and Andi decided to enjoy the good weather in Cennet. Chris and Dan really pushed their climbing to a limit today, managing to climb a 7a. Harry and Andi also pushed their lead climbing level - just a good 5 grades below the other two. Once the psychological fear of leading was forgotten (by simply setting up top ropes on the difficult routes) all 4 climbed at a whole different level - managing to onsit a 6c+ and a 7a.

Led by Jessi and two American girls who also stayed in the hostel, a small group decided to explore the surrounding hills. A scenic hike above the water opened a whole new backcountry world to them. Another group of people decided to take a rest day, as the fingers were start to pay their toll for the hard climbing the previous days.

At night, the whole group went to the beach to enjoy a small self made campfire and to experience the amazing effects of the fluorescent algae in the water - an unforgettable experience, swimming in a sea of tiny sparks.

Saturday 30th March - Last Day Out



Sunrise

A beautiful sunrise was the start to an amazing last day out climbing. While Andi left early in the morning, Harry, Harriet and Chris headed over to a small crag behind another Tree House featuring a perfect variety of moderate routes. Eventually, everyone gathered back at Bayrams to enjoy the last dinner (as good as ever) and the best moments of the trip were shared again.

Sunday 31st March - Leaving Turkey

Eventually, after an amazing week in Turkey, it was time to pack the bags and slowly come to the realisation that in a few hours the blue sunny sky and the warm temperatures will be swapped with the typical London weather again.

At the end of the week everyone concluded that the week was incredible and most importantly, everyone was back in London with no injuries.

Silwood Photography Club

Financial breakdown

Expenditure breakdown

Accommodation - £300 (£15 per night per head)

Travel – £205.20 (Total 342 miles in Silwood minibus, £0.6 per mile)

Food – £46.73

Attendance

10 full members (Junying Lim, Organiser; Emily Humble, Organiser)

Dates

17th – 19th May 2013

Activities

Friday (17th May 2013)

- Left Silwood Park at 7p.m.
- Arrived in Joe's lodge (bunkhouse) in Talgarth at 2230 hours

Saturday (18th May 2013)

- Circular 12 km walk / hike around Talgarth that included Park Wood, Bradwys Wood, farmland and riparian habitat
- Some members had the chance to take some really nice photos of the local flora (including a rare sight of a wild orchid), waterfalls and the mountains that bounded the region



Sunday (19th May 2013)

- On the 2nd day, we drove down to the town of Brecon, where we made a short visit to the castle and the local cathedral

- We then drove down to Talybont-on-Usk where we had lunch, passing spectacular views of Llangors lake and the Talybont and Pentwyn reservoirs, although there were few opportunities for photography
- We stopped in a carpark between the Talybont and Pentwyn reservoirs that had access to a 1 hour long forest path that led to some spectacular waterfalls, pine forests and streams.
- Members had the opportunity to shoot some amazing waterfalls, flora, forest photos.





Aims and major issues

Minor changes in the planned itinerary and walking route were made based on group consensus, but the main aims were achieved. Dates of travel were changed to the current ones to accommodate for examination timings and members' schedules. The weather was extraordinarily cooperative – no rain, good light for photographs.

AEB Chamber Choir. Easter Tour Report. 01/04/13-07/04/13.

Number of full members: 16

Number of associate members: 1.

We went on tour to Ystrad Aeron in Wales to the family home of one of the members of the choir. The aim of the tour was fundamentally to learn a set of brand new repertoire and perform a concert at the end of the week. In addition to this the plan was to bring the choir together as a stronger unit and explore new talent in new roles.

The week was highly structured with daily walks, and intensive rehearsal. For the evening meals we set up a sectional Come Dine with Me with a cleaning rota - which was filmed. This ensured that every single person contributed to the week with the members getting a choice of what food they'd like. This also brought the sections closer together as units. In the evening, one member of the committee was appointed as "Structured Fun Secretary". Games were set up when it was felt appropriate including a Pinata and numerous drinking games.

In addition to this it was felt that extra-core activities should be encouraged. During the week we visited an Iron Age Hill fort, explored Aberystwyth and visited a 13th century castle ruin. Several members arrived later in the week. This was a challenge as the "in-jokes" were thick by the Friday. To compensate for this the Thursday afternoon was spent finger painting our impression of the week. When the new members arrived we had a show and tell after dinner to bring everyone into the fold.

Musically the choir were drilled intensely through difficult music. New potential conductors were debuted in the concert at the end of the week in Lampeter and people who don't usually solo also performed.

The financial state of the tour is very healthy. The final report is just being completed and the details will be included in there.

The aims of the tour were fulfilled entirely. Meetings were held between Chair and Director before and after the tour for it to be discussed. The latter were held a few weeks later after feedback from the choir was had. It was deemed to be very successful. Next year's Chair was on the tour and so any changes will be decided between him and the Director who is continuing.

Normal Day's Breakdown

09.00 Breakfast.

10.00 Rehearsal.

12.30 Walk and lunch (usually packed lunches).

14.30 Free half an hour.

15.00 Rehearsal.

18.30 One section begins cooking whilst the rest continue to rehearse.

20.00 Evening Meal.

Week's Breakdown

Monday	Arrived in the evening. Rehearsed and ate.
Tuesday	Normal day.
Wednesday	Normal day with an excursion to Aberystwyth.
Thursday	Abnormal day. Slightly longer lunch time for an art afternoon.
Friday	Normal day with an excursion to the Iron Age fort.
Saturday	Day of the concert. Shorter walk and more rehearsal.
Sunday	Spent the morning cleaning and visited a castle ruin on the way back.

PhotoSoc Spring Tour 2013 Iceland: Report

Full Members: 8

Associate Members: 1

Dates: 22/03/13 - 29/03/13

While in Iceland we travelled across the south of the country staying in hostels visiting many of Iceland's largest attractions and some of its lesser known. On arrival we travelled to Reykjavik and after checking in to our first hostel walked into town along the waterfront to the Harpar Concert Hall. On our second day we visited Iceland's 'Golden Circle': Thingvellir park, Geysir and Gullfoss. On the 24th drove along Rt. 32 visiting a few waterfalls including Haifoss, Iceland's second highest waterfall. Following this we travelled to Fljotsdalur hostel, a turf roofed hostel at the foot of the Tindfjallajökull glacier. The following day we travelled along Rt. 249 towards Thorsmork, a national park. When the road became too difficult to drive on we pulled over and hiked toward the foot of the mountains around the Eyjafjallajökull glacier. On the fifth day we travelled to the Skogar foss, Skaftafellsjökull glacier and the Jokulsarlon glacial lagoon before driving to our furthest east hostel at Hofn. On our penultimate day in Iceland we travelled from Hofn to Vik, revisiting the Skatafell national park to see Svartifoss and visiting the black sand beaches at Vik. On our final day, we drove the remainder of the south coast visiting geothermal fields and the famous blue lagoon.

Refunds need to be given to a few members of the tour to account for under spend of the imprest. Details of this are being cleared up with Aziz and should be in order soon.

Overall the tour was a success with great feedback from members. Photo's taken will be displayed in PhotoSoc's annual exhibition in spring.

OSC Cypriot: Lisbon Tour Report 2012/2013

Full Financial Breakdown of the tour

The costs of the tour were broken down into tickets, accommodation and general activities. Each student that attended the tour was responsible to manage their ticket booking and some of the activities (including food). The Cypriot Society was responsible to book the accommodation that all the members attending the tour were staying. The Union awarded the Cypriot Society a grant of £1219.04 from the IC Trust which was uniformly allocated to the members attending the tour in order to reduce the amount of the total cost.

Day by day account of what occurred

The first day of the trip, once all the attendees were settled into their rooms we organized a group tour into the city. During the tour, the members were able to embrace the culture of the Portuguese capital. On the night of 23rd of March, we suggested various restaurants for dinner and we provided the flexibility to the members to make their own choice of location so that they have a better chance of exploring the city. The morning of 24th of March we organized a group visit to the Lisbon Oceanarium and a visit to Belem, where the Cultural Centre of Lisbon is.

Number of members attending: 25

Dates of the tour: 23-24/03/2013

Did it achieve the aims and objectives as laid out in the proposal?

The basic requirement of the tour was to investigate the impact that the sovereign debt crisis had in Portugal and especially in Lisbon. The reason for this requirement was that Cyprus is also in the same situation, currently being supported by the Troika due to the unsustainable sovereign debt. Therefore, the members were able to extract important conclusions of how life under the supervision of Troika is and make significant comparisons with the life in Cyprus. It can be said that the financial crisis had a significant effect on the population of Cypriots at Imperial, being reduced this year due to the fact that life in London and especially closer to Imperial is particularly expensive.

The outcome of the trip was discussed in the General Meeting that we organized in Cyprus during September. As Cypriot Society committee we strongly believe that the tour achieved the aims and objectives as laid out in the proposal.

Were there any changes to the proposed aims or activities: No

Any major issues that arose whilst on tour: No

Member's impressions of the tour

- Eleni Christophides (OSC Cypriot Member 2012/13)-
" It has most certainly been an experience that we will never forget. We experienced a culture similar to ours and got a taste of what our life in Cyprus might be in a few years as a result of the financial crisis. Cheers to the Cypriot Society for organizing such tours every year and a big thank you to the ICU for subsidizing a significant amount of the cost."

- Christoforos Panteli (OSC Cypriot Member 2012/13)-
“ I believe that societies should aim to give their members experiences like the Lisbon tour since is a package both entertaining but also educational and cultural. I talked to locals who managed to transfer their concerns about how their life has changed after the crisis and I can say that this particularly enriched my compassion for fellow European countries that experience the same problem as Cyprus. Keep the tours on!”

How to improve for the future

Improvement comments are based on the feedback we received from our members and include more days for the trip and also higher subsidized amount.

Renos Karamanis
OSC Cypriot Chair

Imperial College London
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Summer Period

A Cappella Tour 2013: The East Coast of the USA

Tour Dates: 5th – 23rd September 2013

Aims and Objectives:

- To meet and network with the extensive a cappella community in the USA East Coast area, gaining contacts, experience and ideas to improve our groups in the future
- To perform and give workshops at schools in order to generate revenue for the group to be used to subsidise the tour
- To enhance the media presence of the society, and gain skills in many aspects of technical media production during the trip

The Tour Activities Report - A Blow by Blow Guide

The tour included driving just shy of 2000 miles from New York to Atlanta over 19 days. More info can be found on how each day went with an added personal touch on our tour blog:

<https://www.union.ic.ac.uk/arts/acappella/techtonics/> and on watching our tour vlogs

<http://www.youtube.com/user/TechtonicsIC?feature=watch>

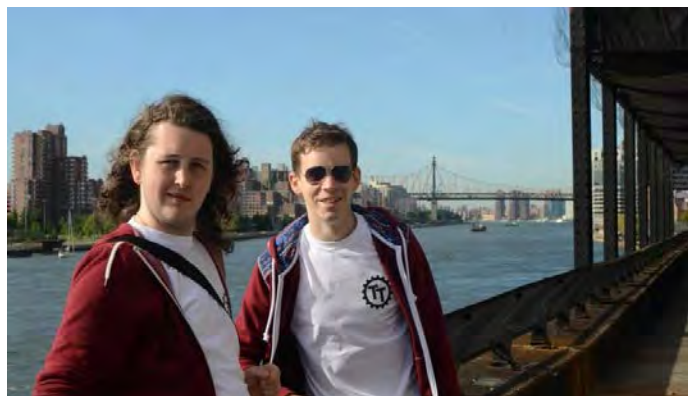
Departure: Thursday 5th September



Spot the techie...

In the morning before departure, the group met in the STOIC studios to arrange and pack the final pieces of sound and recording equipment before travelling to London Heathrow as a group of 12. The 8 hour flight we were catching was the 17:10 Delta Airlines Flight to JFK International Airport, which was broken up by sandwich breaks and particularly popular mid-flight ice-cream service. We arrived at JFK International Airport at 20:25 (local time) and proceeded to go our separate ways to the various accommodation locations that we had arranged prior to arrival. The individual contacts that we had in NYC meant that the majority of us had a place to stay, allowing us to avoid paying the heavily inflated NYC hostel prices.

However, on top of the accommodation that we sourced ourselves, we still needed to find a place for the final 4 members to stay, so we had managed to call up a travel company before leaving from Heathrow and booked the 4 guys into a hostel. Unfortunately, the travel company we had booked though made the mistake of booking the hostel for the evening of 5th September **2014**, which led to a tricky couple of hours for these guys. However, a quick rally of resources and the hostel kindly letting us use their telephone meant that they found another hotel just a few streets away that could take them in, even at such short notice!



Chris and Pete in front of East River, NYC

The next morning saw the group's first performance of tour. Throwing off jetlag to the best of our ability, we headed to the Brearley School where we performed to a large proportion of the student body (all female) and staff in the school's cafeteria. The school also provided an excellent opportunity for some brief rehearsal and reflection on the previous night's adventure. This was then followed by the first of many Bagel stops, some free time in Central Park and an afternoon of beefing up our performance repertoire rehearsing outside in the park itself.



Alex enjoys a frisbee break in Central park

That evening the group met at Newark airport to welcome the penultimate member of the touring party, David Verhoeven (an alumnus flying in from the Cayman Islands). From here we also picked up the two 7-seater hire cars that would be our mode of transport for the tour. From here, one car headed directly for our next destination, Yale University, whilst the other car re-traversed Manhattan to pick up the final member of the party (Conrad Godfrey - on a rebooked flight due to an exam on the previous day), before heading north in pursuit. Our hosts at Yale for that evening were some old friends of ours, Yale Out of the Blue. YOOTB had toured London earlier this year and stayed with us for the majority of this time, and additionally we stayed with them on last year's tour. It is this kind of relationship that we wish to develop and maintain with each passing year, as it provides fantastic cultural and musical experiences for all involved.

The next morning was fairly difficult for some members due to jet-lag and other symptoms, but lack of sleep was certainly a symptom suffered at some point by the whole touring party. Following a quick breakfast and some very fond farewells, the party headed for Providence, and more specifically for the "Derbyhaus". Brown University, like many Ivy League institutions, has an extremely prevalent A Cappella scene, and the Brown Derbies (one of the oldest and best groups at Brown) are very close friends of The Techtonics. This was another repeat from last year's tour, and it has already been arranged for the Brown Derbies to return to London to stay with us in January 2014.



The Brown Derbies performing at the Wayland Arch, Brown University

We were extremely fortunate to have been booked a slot at the prestigious 'Arch Sings'; an annual showcase of a cappella music to the university's new Freshmen in order to promote auditions. This was an absolute honour, and we performed just before the Brown Derbies at the Wayland Arch on Brown's campus. This was a fantastic experience, and the crowd of 150+ that had gathered to see 'those British guys' gave us an extremely warm response to our set. The Derbies then hosted a fantastic after party which was enjoyed by all!



At the DerbyHaus at Brown

Another slow morning saw the group split up to sample some of the more popular breakfast spots at Brown. After we'd eaten and resupplied our food stocks, we headed back down the I95 for a long day of driving. Our destination was Philadelphia, another of the locations visited in the previous year. However, this journey saw the second minor setback of tour. Approximately half way through the 7 hour drive, we discovered that our accommodation in Philadelphia had fallen through (due to a combination of a mis-scheduling and a mis-understanding). Therefore, we regrouped in a NJ service station and a local WiFi hotspot in order to work out our options. As it turned out, we

managed to find accommodation for all 14 of us for the fantastic price of \$20 in a Hostelling International in north-west Philadelphia. On arriving, we managed to check in (and also avoid the potential spoilers of the last 10 minutes of the penultimate Breaking Bad episode that was playing in the lovely lounge next door) before settling into our rooms for a much needed early(ish) night.



Ryan prepares for the long drive from Providence to Philadelphia



Max-imising our use of the local facilities

The emergency accommodation in fact made for one of the most comfortable nights of tour. The kitchen facilities were great and allowed us to make a pancake breakfast for the whole group while Max and Conrad played some 'honky-tonk' tunes on the out of tune piano. The extra time in the morning also meant we could do some more filming for our [vlog](#). After a quick performance to the staff, and an improvised cover of Journey's 'Don't Stop Believing' we were kindly allowed to use one of the large reception rooms to rehearse.

That afternoon, we headed for Ursinus College in Collegeville (via a supermarket, in order to finally buy some fruit/healthy food) where we met up with our contact Paige, who had been a member of Imperial's female A Cappella group (the Imperielles) last year. After being shown around, we headed to the venue of our first major public performance. This was our first opportunity to make the most of some of the sound equipment that we had brought all the way from the Beit Quad East Basement, and despite some initial difficulties with the local facilities, our engineer Max had it up and working in no time!

We performed alongside two groups from Ursinus College, the B'Naturals and the Bearitones, who were both excellent and introduced us with a funny skit, 'Dear Mr. My Girlfriend Loves British Guys', which was of course received incredibly well by us. We performed last and were very well received by the large audience. As this was the first gig of tour on microphones, we were relieved that everything went to plan, and indeed were thankful of the equipment, which really added something to the sound. We spent the rest of the evening socialising and singing (our first experience of a 'riff-off') with the other two Ursinus groups, who had also sorted out our accommodation on campus for that night.



Chris Pellew takes the lead at Ursinus college

The next morning presented us with our first early start of tour. We were all up and out by 5am in order to arrive on time for our performance at the Richard Montgomery High School, a 3 hour drive away in Rockville, MD. Though the concert at Brearley School had been our first on tour, this was the first performance for which we were charging a small fee, so it was important that we made a fantastic impression. We just about made it on time and hastily set up the microphones in the huge auditorium. The concert was very successful, and was followed immediately by a workshop in which we answered questions from a class of music students as well as gave them feedback on their performances to us. We also gave advice and information about various aspects of singing and higher education. Following this session, we were given some fantastic feedback by head of music Ron Frezzo, before packing up the cars and heading for lunch in Rockville.



Alex and Mike giving some feedback at Richard Montgomery School

Tuesday afternoon was to be a productive one for the group. Throughout tour, we tried at all times to maintain an active social media presence, as well as producing regular blogs, 'vlogs' and photographs to keep the world updated. Additionally, due to it being such a long tour, afternoon's like this were essential so that the tour managers could track any changes in itinerary, keep sending regular replies to our key contacts and complete any other required administration (update budgets, file imprest receipts, etc.).

Later that evening, we made the short (in US terms) 2 hour drive to central Washington. We then met with our hosts for the evening, the Vibes from George Washington University. This was the first group on tour that we had not previously had any links with, so after getting to know them a little bit we headed down to the DC waterfront for a joint busking session. Both groups gathered quite a crowd and one happy onlooker decided to donate us a 4 pack of beer instead of give us any change! Following a quick burrito, we then headed back to one of the Vibes flats for a party where we got to know everyone and had a really awesome time.



The GW Vibes perform on the DC Waterfront

Having sorted the logistics of our morning's journey the evening before, we simply had to execute the much-harder-than-it-should-have-been task of getting to our next booked gig at the British School in Washington. It quickly dawned on us that this was to be an uncomfortably hot day (100F, 97% humidity = hot!), and that maximising time spent in air-conditioned areas was vitally important. We met our contact, Simon Bird, and headed for refuge inside the building.

We made our way to a wonderful music room which was to be our base. Throughout the day we gave mini-workshops at the school to a variety of age groups. This included everything from doing our specially crafted 'Silly Noises' workshop to their infants, to talking to students in Year 12 and 13 regarding university choices, subjects, and university life. It was nice to see that many of their number were considering studying in the UK, and we made sure to push Imperial as the best destination anyone could pick if they want to do science. The day built to a climax with an evening performance in the main school hall. Despite the more modest turnout, we really enjoyed the performance's informality and vibe, and were received extremely well. After meeting everyone afterwards (we now have the card from the British Consulate to Washington, who loved the show), we said our goodbyes before heading back to the GW Vibes who were hosting us for a second night.



Chatting all things University with the BSW seniors



#capitolbuilding #tourists #British #Obama #Techtonics
#waytoohot #OneDirectionatyourheartout

Having visited DC only briefly on our 2012 tour, we were very excited to be able to spend some time sightseeing this time round. Most of the next day (Thursday 12th) was spent on the nearby National Mall visiting the various monuments, memorials and museums. Between the Techtonics nearly every Smithsonian building in the area was visited, albeit for a limited time. We gathered again in the afternoon and made our way to the Old Post Office in order to ascend the tower and get a great view.

The evening brought another short drive, this time to American University in order to sing with Dime a Dozen, in the beautiful Katzen Arts Center. We had a great reception and we were on a high to go off and spend some time with them that night. However, with an early morning and a huge day ahead of us, we crashed fairly early in order to make the most of any downtime. This was also the point at which we said our fond farewells to Zain, who had booked his flight back from DC the next evening, reducing our party size to 13.

Friday morning saw the final repeat event from the 2012 tour, as we headed to Georgetown Day School to perform at their assembly and give a music class to their a cappella groups. This was familiar ground for the old members of the group, and it was lovely to see again music teacher Ben Hutchens and a couple of other familiar faces at the school. We had a fantastic morning at GDS, but following our performance we rushed off in order to drive to our next booking.



'No Tomorrow' at the Katzen Arts Centre with David on lead

Now for another anecdote regarding USA tours - when you look at a journey on

Google maps, it is not always necessarily as easy as you think it might be! Straight from the performance at GDS, one car containing all of the group's workshop leaders set off immediately for Caravel Academy, in Bear, Delaware. Tour manager Pete Scott now admits that planning a 10am gig (start time) followed by a 12:30pm meet time before a workshop is not leaving enough time for the "pretty short" 111 mile drive between the two places. However, with a bit of rushing and mercy from the traffic gods, the first car managed to arrive on time, with the second car following shortly after.

We had a lovely afternoon at Caravel. First, we led a workshop with a group of the school's male singers, before doing some performances for them and getting to know them. The music teacher explained to us how important it was for their school in getting a group of guys to come and perform to them, to show their male students how to have fun whilst singing. A particularly interesting part of this for us was getting to meet the school's newly formed barbershop quartet, and in particular their quarterback turned lead male singer. Despite the High School Musical-esque description, it was particularly interesting for the sportsmen in our group to meet him, and was quite moving when he took time to specifically thank us for our encouragement. The workshops were followed by a performance in the enormous school sports hall. This was challenging due to the difficult acoustic, but a couple of audience participation numbers and a lot of energy later we managed to have a great gig in the end!



Audience participation at Caravel Academy

Over the course of tour, the fact we are technically a British boyband led to what someone coined as “the One Direction effect” - luckily we planned for this and had business cards, CDs and t-shirts for sale after all our gigs. Caravel was no exception to this rule, and we had a really lovely time meeting so many new people!



Conrad experiencing the 'One Direction effect'

After leaving Delaware, we recovered from what had been an exhausting day in true American style: at a roadside diner eating huge burgers. Once fed and watered, we took the 2 hour drive back to DC to visit the Catholic University of America. Arriving early evening, we just had time to meet our host groups, Redline and Take Note, before heading over to the performance venue on campus. The concert was fantastic; with a crowd of over 200 and another chance to use a microphone setup (albeit not our own one this time around). Nevertheless, we really enjoyed this gig. Redline and Take Note performed to a very high quality, which made them difficult acts to follow, but we gave it our best despite the long day.



The hectic tour schedule taking its toll

Long day or not, we never missed out on the opportunity to get to know as many people as possible over the course of the tour, both to build our own experiences and to build the reputation of the group as a whole. Pausing only briefly for another CD/t-shirt sales session, we headed straight to another fantastic house party hosted by Keighley and KC from Redline. They were fantastic hosts, and we really enjoyed our evening - though, it seemed that tour was catching up with several of us by this point, as the photo shows!

With the rare chance of a morning off the next day, the group used this time to get a lie in and collect themselves for the coming days. After some sad goodbyes, we headed south into uncharted territory for the group, into North Carolina. The next stop was Duke University, Durham, which has one of the strongest a cappella traditions of all. Arriving fairly late (it was another 5 hour drive), we were rushed quickly to the venue for another performance. We were singing to an audience of ~300 with the other groups from the college at an event similar to the 'Arch Sings' back in Brown. The standard set by the other groups was extremely high; Duke 'Out of the Blue', 'Deja Blue' and 'Speak of the Devil' were extremely difficult acts to follow. However, we managed to find some performance energy from somewhere, which, when combined with a bit of a British accent, seems to work wonders with American A Cappella audiences!



Looking and feeling much more awake at the Smart House at Duke

Following the performance, we headed to our accommodation for the night at 'the Smart house'; an energy neutral building owned by the Faculty of Engineering, before an excellent evening socialising achieving a great number of new friends. The next morning was a particularly slow start. The day was planned for relaxation and administration, so we took time to catch up with our social media and emailing duties. After vacating the smart house, we headed to a lovely park in Durham for some evening sunshine, before splitting up to head to our accommodation for the night. It was on this evening that we said a sad farewell to David Maguire, who had to head back home early for previous commitments made since January. A couple of our party dropped him at the bus station so that he could get a coach to Atlanta before flying home.



Making the most of the fantastic facilities at Ravenscroft School

The next day saw 2 more fantastic school gigs. The first, a short drive away in Raleigh, NC, was at Ravenscroft School. We led a music class in the morning, followed by a session with some of their a cappella singers. Then we had the opportunity to use their amazing auditorium (complete with a wireless microphone setup) to give a performance to around 150 students. It was really pleasing to hear how much we were improving over the course of tour, and this has put us in great stead to continue for another great year. Following the gig, we had the opportunity to briefly meet many of the audience members before rushing off to our second gig of the day, at Duke School, back in Durham. After the hour drive, we rushed straight from the cars to their sports hall. Performing to approximately 300 members of their Junior school was a real pleasure, and the workshop which followed was both very enjoyable and went down very well with staff and students alike.

From Duke school, we set course for Pigeon Forge, TN. This was something that a lot of the group had been longing for several days, in that it was 3 nights of planned R&R. We were staying in a cabin owned by the family of alumnus David Verhoeven, and they had kindly let us stay there for free. It was another incredibly long drive away (this time 7 hours), but on arrival, it became apparent that it was the perfect place for us at this stage of tour. A huge place in the middle of a mountain forest, with everything we would need for the perfect time resting and recuperating.



Mike leading workshop warm-ups in the Duke School gym

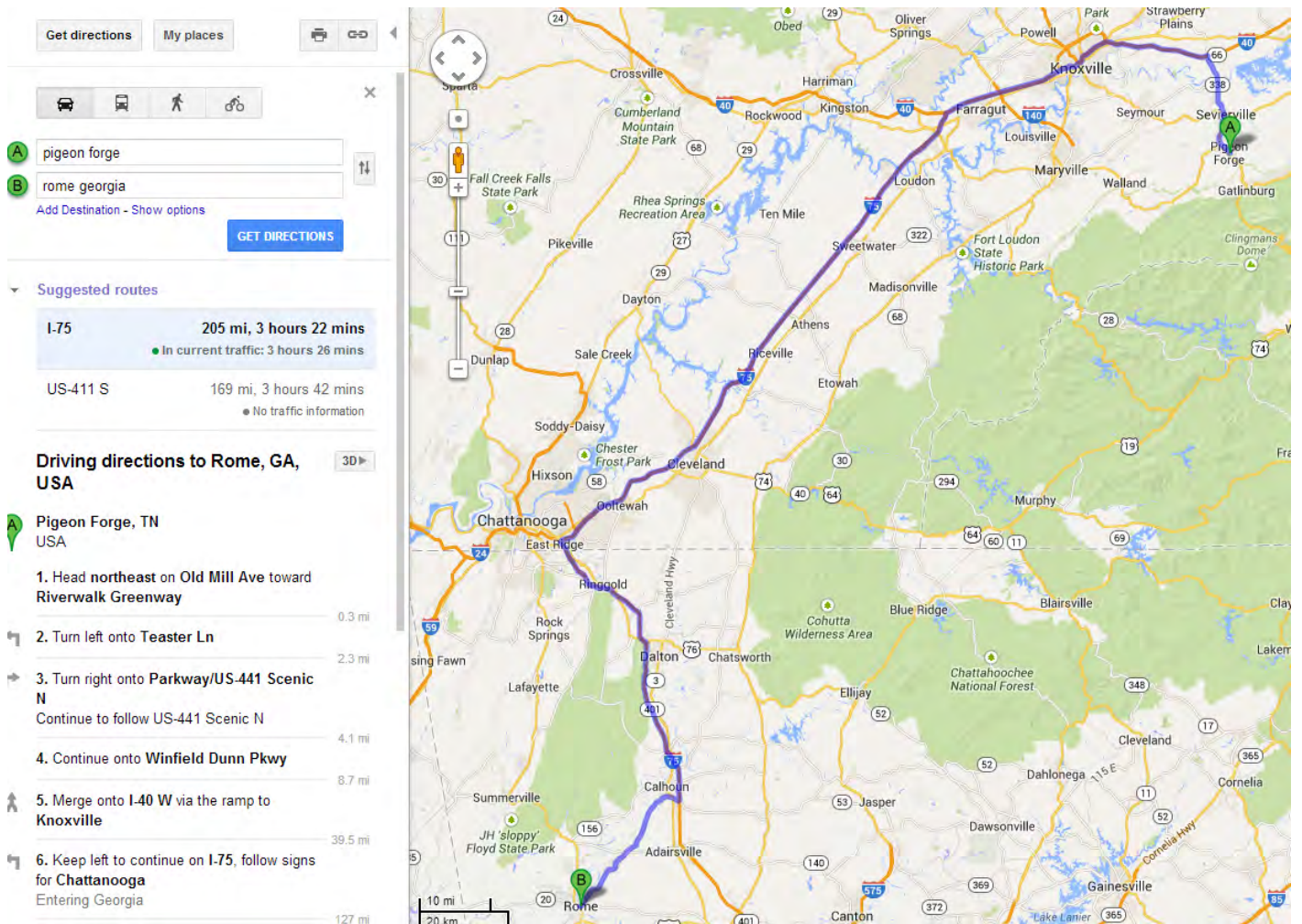
The next 2 days were incredibly relaxing and yet also productive. We used the time to begin recording some tracks for an album, using all the recording equipment we had been carrying throughout the tour, which we will hopefully be finishing over the coming year. On top of this we took time to hike in the mountains, ride go karts on the local strip, and enjoy the facilities of the cabin, recovering thoroughly for the final leg of tour, in Georgia. The time flew by, and it felt like we could have happily lived at the cabin indefinitely, but after 3 nights there, it was time to clean up, pack up and head off to our next destination: Rome, Georgia.



R&R at Pigeon Forge

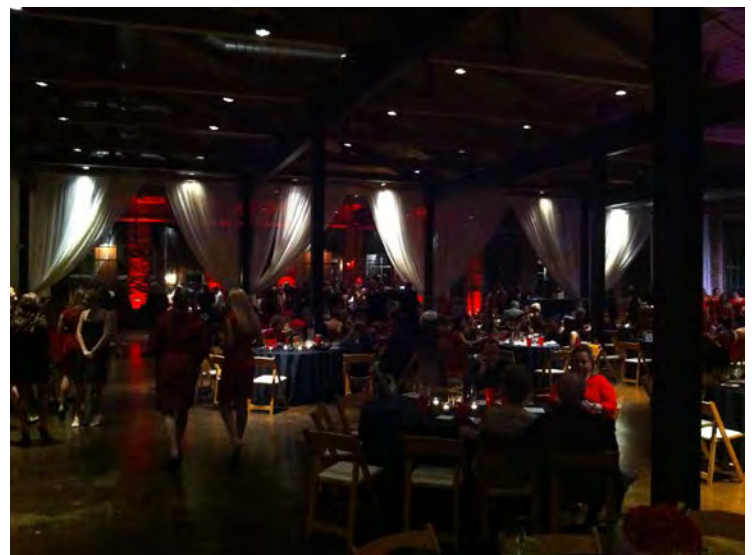
Compared to what we were used to, the 4 hour drive to Rome seemed to fly by (to those of us that weren't driving at least), and before we knew it, we had arrived at Darlington school. With a Hogwarts-esque feel to the grounds, the staff and students were incredibly friendly and enthusiastic and it was a real delight to be here. We arrived in time to set up for an hour long acoustic performance in their chapel. The beautiful acoustic was enhanced by the fantastic atmosphere when students, staff and members of the community alike all came to see us perform. As ever, we greatly enjoyed meeting so many members of the audience afterwards, and hugely appreciated all their compliments. By this point our CD and T-shirt sales had exceeded all expectations.

Following the concert, the original itinerary had detailed a trip BACK to Tennessee, in order to return to Darlington school the next morning. However, we quickly realised the severe impracticality of this suggestion, and luckily so did our contact at Darlington, who arranged for us to be put up in a posh (by our standards) local motel for the night. This meant that we were all able to sleep about 12 hours each, ahead of the big day of workshops and performances that followed. Arriving at Darlington at 0830, we then spent most of the day at the school, meeting staff and students alike, taking a tour of the grounds, performing to assemblies, leading music classes and generally taking in as much as possible of the day. Both the students and Music teachers were very grateful for us spending so much time with them, and were extremely hospitable to our needs throughout our stay. After a bit of relaxation time towards the end of the school day, we said our goodbyes, and took the 90 minute drive to Atlanta, our final stop of the tour.



Lesson learned: Planning to drive a 3h 20mins journey THREE TIMES in just an 18 hour time period is probably not the best plan.

On arrival, we met with our contact Sammy at the venue for our performance. This was the biggest underestimate of a performance's size on all of tour. On arrival we thought it would be a little party hosted by a fraternity with some informal singing. It turned out that it was a full black tie, catered, 300 attendees, casino night-themed gig with a professional sound system and an even more professional feel. However, we were able to enjoy the fantastic atmosphere, and even try our hand at some of the poker and blackjack tables. The gig went extremely well, with sound engineer Max adapting to the new equipment like a duck to water. Our hosts Infinite Harmony also performed, and as the night drew to a close, we headed back to Sammy's flat and got to know our new friends.



"Nah, it's just a gig for some party at a Sorority; it won't be that big..."



Posing with our hosts post-performance

After splitting up for the night, we had the next day as free time in Atlanta. As it was gameday for college football, the group ended up experiencing it in many ways, ranging from VIP tickets, to getting soaked in the crowd, to sitting in a sports bar to watch. We also had a chance to do some shopping, and to get to know our hosts from Infinite Harmony. We reunited that evening in order to head to a concert with Infinite Harmony and a local semi-pro group called Catatonic. Despite losing and then re-finding our flight case in the hour before the gig, we managed to set up in time, before taking part in a chilled outdoor concert with a lovely tech setup too. This was a really nice way to end the tour, and if only it could have been the lasting memory of Atlanta.

Unfortunately, this is where the only bit of serious misfortune happened in the whole tour. During the post concert meal in a pizza place just down the road, we were unfortunate enough to have one of our cars broken into. Both Chris Pellew and Mike Ronan's bags were stolen, including laptops, personal items (including passports) and all of the stored imprest receipts throughout tour. The police were called immediately, and were as helpful as they could be given the circumstances, but it was very difficult to take after everything else had been going so well. Once we had cleared the broken glass from the car, we headed to the concert after party. As this was in a gated community, it was one of the only places we could leave the car and be sure it would be safe. Fortunately, insurance had been taken out in full on both cars, but it presented a significant challenge for the next day: How to get Mike and Chris home without passports?



Our hire car after the break in

Despite the circumstances, the group as a whole managed to have a good time at the party. Waking up in the morning for the final day of tour, knowing our flight was at 8pm but that 2 of our party were passport-less, we knew that the only real option for our Sunday was to get to the airport really early and go through as many protocols as needed to get Mike and Chris on the plane. Although there is a British Consulate in Atlanta, this service was not available at weekends, so on calling Delta customer services, they advised getting to the airport early and going from there. Thus we proceeded to do just that by firstly dropping the cars off and then heading with all of our luggage to the airport. From there, it was a fairly complicated process to follow, and I think Chris' Facebook status on arriving home summarises it much better than I can:



Chris Pellew

27 September near London

So we get to Atlanta, have a great time, but... car gets broken into, back pack gets stolen, Passport, Computer, all vision implements plus other life essentials gone 😞
Arrive 8 hours early to Atlanta Airport, first talk to Lewis, then Frank, then Officer Bill Cunningham, almost reach Supervisor Kevin, but are directed to Officer Jones... and finally the lovely lady Noor has words with Supervisor Glenn and Mike and I are eventually allowed onto the Delta flight home 😊

8 hours later British Passport control give us some very dirty looks and tell the rest of the TT's to leave us behind.... It looks bleak... but then the gate opens and Waahoo! We are back in England! A 'hard luck old chap' from my dad and a Roast chicken from my mum and the Atlanta woes seem almost a dream... Until a short convo with my brother who says 'you lost my bag you moron! What!? Your computer got stolen!? That sucks balls!' Indeed it does Tim, indeed it does!

Unlike · Comment

You, Mike Ronan, Justus Schmidt, Shamini Bundell and 49 others like this.

We were incredibly lucky to be able to get home as a full party, and with all of our stuff intact. British Passport control informed us on arrival that Delta would have to pay a hefty fine for showing Chris and Mike such kindness and allowing them to travel. However, Mike emailed his MP when back home and apparently words have been had so that this is not the case anymore. Nevertheless, what matters is that the whole group returned safely to Heathrow, and (some insurance claims later) were all safe and incredibly proud and grateful for the fantastic experience that we all had in the USA.

The Tour Party

Full Union members:

Chris Pellew, Peter Noden, Peter Scott, Chris Witham, James Hayward, Conrad Godfrey, David Maguire, Alex Moore, Max Hunter, Ryan Dee, Mike Ronan

Other members on tour:

Ayman Osman, Zain Khawaja and David Verhoeven
(all recent alumni and paid for their own flights)

Total = 14 (11 full members and 3 alumni)

Financial State of Tour:

USA Tour 2013 Financial Summary		
Description	Income	Expenditure
Union Grant	£2,233.88	
Tour Subscriptions from members	£1,400.00	
Techtonics SGI Contribution	£779.52	
Conerts and Workshops Performed	£4,098.82	
CD and T-shirt Sales	£968.02	
Travel (Flights to/from America)		£5,423.00
Travel (Car Hire, Insurance)		£2,426.09
Travel (Fuel, Tolls, Parking) - Converted from USD		£586.06
Emergancy Accomodation		£319.91
Consumables		£377.32
Communications		£55.43
Publicity		£399.86
Miscellaneous Charges		£78.51
Subtotals	£9,480.24	£9,666.18
Profit/Loss		£185.94

Despite slightly negative balance following tour (albeit <2% of the total income), The Techtonics had compiled a contingency which easily covers this balance. Although the eActivities pages currently show a very negative figure, the money from all the school gigs should be coming in over the next weeks and months, in order to take the balance positive overall.

Tour Report

The Chamber Choir went on tour from the seventh to the fourteenth of September, 2013, to Budapest, Hungary. 17 people attended at maximum with 14 at minimum. The aim of the tour was to provide a week in which the choir could intensely get to grips with developing the music already performed during the year. It gave the choir the opportunity to bring out elements of the music which are only realisable after a second or third performance.

On the Sunday the choir performed their full concert in Orokimado church after a church service which they all attended. This was very well received and kicked off the week on a very warm footing. Through this gig the choir has made friends in Budapest as well making friends with some lovely Hungarians living in London.

On Tuesday the choir performed during 'Afternoon Tea' at Le Meridien hotel in central Budapest in their gorgeous art nouveau atrium. The choir were well looked after and the audience were very appreciative.

On Thursday the choir joined in worship at the church of St Teresa of Avila. The choir sang the majority of Vaughan Williams' Mass in G minor as well as other sacred music during the service to a large congregation in an absolutely stunning setting. Once the mass was finished the choir performed the rest of the repertoire and were warmly thanked by the clergy.

The three gigs gave a very nice structure to the week and were nicely spaced to allow the choir to concentrate on other activities. One very important thing was bringing the sections into closer contact. When harder repertoire is attempted it is important that sections feel comfortable enough with each other to go away outside of normal rehearsal times to bash through the notes. To encourage this the choir has always cooked in sections. A rota was put together to alternate between sections being in charge of cooking or cleaning. A small element of competition arises and this further fuels a sense of sectional identity.

In addition to the intense musical and social aspects of the week the choir chose to partake in cultural activities. These were unplanned but instead discussed and decided upon over dinner each evening. The choir, as a group, went to the famous Gellert baths, visited the absolutely incredible Hungarian National Gallery, Hero's square, St Stephen's Basilica and St Mathyas Cathedral, went on a boat trip on the Danube and travelled on one of the oldest tube lines in Europe.

The group bonded very intensely over the week and the final night involved a lot of crying when the final speeches of the year were made and we said goodbye to leaving members.

Day by day:

Saturday

Arrived very late.

Sunday

Chair bought breakfast. Rehearsal in church. Brief walking tour of Budapest. Lunch. Mass at 6pm. Dinner eaten out.

Monday

Cooking – Altos, Cleaning – Tenors.

Went to the Gellert baths in the day, rehearsal in the afternoon.

Tuesday

Cooking – Tenors, Cleaning – Altos.

Rehearsal and gig at hotel 12-5pm.

Wednesday

Cooking – Sopranos, Cleaning – Basses.

Trip to national gallery, fisherman's bastion and mathyas cathedral.

Thursday

Cooking – Basses, Cleaning – Sopranos.

Hero's square for lunch. Rehearsal, mass and concert in St Teresa church.

Friday

Boat trip. Evening meal with the end of year speeches at restaurant.

IC Big Band Summer Tour 2013 - 2nd to 9th July - Prague, Czech Republic

15 Full Members
 3 Non Members
 Total: 18

Chris Hopkins	Matt Croydon	Gabriel Eve	Ben Ashby
Conor Nelson	Faris Abou-Saleh	Mike Prestage	Rosemary Richardson
Amber Madden-Nadeau	Jed Farquharson	Jem Holland	Adam Butler
Issie Barrett	Chaz Keiderling	Julian Waton	Alex Summers
Zoot Warren	Tom Hopkins		

Prague is host to a very well established jazz scene with jazz clubs lining the city streets, hence the decision that it would be a suitable location for a big band tour. The primary purpose of the tour was to perform a variety of big band repertoire to a professional level and represent IC on the international stage. It was a fantastic opportunity for our members to perform in a city with a different culture but with a strong tradition in jazz. Furthermore, IC Big Band tours are a great opportunity for the social side of the club to be promoted.

Tour Finances Summary

Accounts summary		
Description	Income	Expenditure
Union Travel Grant	650.04	
Return Flights		-1,593.55
Flight Name Change		-122.00
Aiport Shuttle Taxi		-106.31
Groupsave Stansted Express		-234.00
Total Travel:	650.04	-2,055.86
Hostel		-2,403.06
Members' payments	3,816.00	
Totals	£4,466.04	-£4,458.92
Profit/Loss	£7.12	

This accounts for a £25 reimbursement owed to members, due to overcharging.

What happened while on tour

Tuesday – Arrived in Prague pm

Wednesday – Rehearsal followed by gig at Reduta Jazz Club

Thursday – Visited Prague Castle, watched a performance at Ungelt Jazz and Blues Club

Friday – Visited the Jewish Museum and the Old Town

Saturday – Cycling tours, played a gig outdoors on the riverfront

Sunday – Jam session in U Maleho Glena Bar and Jazz & Blues Club

Monday – Pedalos on the Vltava followed by tour dinner and awards

Tuesday – Return to London

Did it achieve the Aims and Objectives as laid out in the application.

Yes. To summarise we played two gigs + took part in a jam session, went to a live performance, and went sightseeing. The tour was good value for money and everyone had an enjoyable time.

Were there any changes to the proposed A&O and Activities.

No, although, due to flooding, one of our gig venues had to cancel last minute. Unfortunately this meant that one of our members opted out, as they didn't want to take a week off for a single gig. We managed to organise another gig to replace it in the end (on the riverside), but this was too late to persuade them to change their mind.



Members' impressions of the tour

The tour can be considered a great success as all the A&O were achieved and the organisation ran very smoothly with no problems occurring at all. The members will have gained valuable experience from playing on tour especially in the very well respected Reduta Jazz Club, which will be a venue to remember. As a whole, the band had a very enjoyable time and have returned as a much closer social unit.

How to improve for the future

The only improvement would be in the organisation of gigs, which ended up being very last minute, partly due to the unfortunate flooding, and partly due to poor organisation. This will be improved in the future by clearly formulating the role of tour manager, which was a new addition to the elected committee this year.







Sinfonietta Tour Report: 2013 Madrid Tour

For the annual Sinfonietta tour 2013 the orchestra flew to Madrid and played two concerts. Initially the tour destination was Morocco but due to budget restraints and concerns about cultural differences, it was changed to Madrid. 25 flights and 40 places at the hostel were promptly booked, and a player from the area rung up several music centres to look for a venue. He eventually found and secured two concerts for the orchestra– one in a historic park and another in a suburban cultural centre. The venue also agreed a small fee for each concert. In addition the conductor found a renowned soloist who agreed to play a concerto with us.

One issue that persisted throughout the organising process was the lack of players committing to tour. This became a serious problem later on in the summer, so much so that the committee almost cancelled the entire trip. We believe this is due to a few factors – the handover from the old committee to the new one was haphazard, meaning that the new committee were inexperienced and had to ‘learn on the job’, especially when dealing with finance and communications. Also, members who initially signed up dropped out at a very late stage, having not paid a deposit. This is due to a lack of cooperation from last year’s secretary who did not hand over the details of the necessary mailing lists, meaning that not every player was regularly updated with the situation about tour. In order to alleviate the problem the committee emailed numerous university orchestras and music schools, which had limited success. One player was fully subsidised, but we still required a substantial number of players given that the venue were expecting an orchestra of high calibre.

We eventually resolved this problem by finding players from music schools in Spain - 14 in total. This in fact turned out to be a positive solution as the touring members from England socialised with these locals and it became a more immersive experience in Spanish culture. It is something we would like to consider again for next year’s tour, however we would like to it to be planned as opposed to a last resort situation. Next year we will ensure that deposits are paid within the first month of signing up, and for it to be made clear that the money would be lost upon pulling out. This will ensure a greater commitment and a better idea of the orchestra numbers, allowing us to concentrate on finding extra players rather than chasing up those who have already committed.

Another issue was that of the van. Unaware that Imperial College held a business account with Northgate Vehicle Hire, the committee hired directly from the college under the club name. When the van was returned with two scratches on the door, the company withheld our whole deposit and ordered a £250 insurance excess to be paid due to a problem with driver insurance which has never happened before in our drivers’ experience, who have regularly hired from the same company. This is currently something we are still trying to resolve, but due to the difficult behaviour of the staff there it is unlikely we will hire from them again.

Despite the various setbacks, both new and regular members socialising with each other and immersing themselves the culture of the city. The committee organised some group socials – a bar social for the first night, a day trip to the historic city of Toledo and a group tapas dinner for the last night. For the concert itself the orchestra, in addition to our set repertoire, also performed a ‘world premiere’ of a piece composed by the soloist and a local Spanish percussionist, which proved to be good fun for everyone involved.

Despite the odds the tour was a large success, and as the new committee were so heavily involved at an early stage we are confident that with more forethought and structured planning an even better tour can be organised for the next year.

ACC Cricket Summer Tour 2013

Tour Report

Introduction

This is a Tour Report of the Summer Tour that ACC Cricket took to Bournemouth in the summer of 2013. It contains an overview of the entire tour including the financial breakdown and the members' take on the tour. Overall, the tour was very eventful with a Cricket match being played on every day of the Tour. The members thoroughly enjoyed it and due to the runaway success of the tour, we are planning a 6 day tour to Malta this Spring.

Financial Breakdown

The tour was organised through a company called Top Order Tours. Out of the 15 people who were on the tour, 13 of them paid for the entirety of the tour while the remaining 2 only paid for the costs of the matches because their homes were close to Bournemouth. Below is the financial breakdown of the tour.

No of People who paid for the full tour	No of People who paid for the tour without accomodation	Cost of Full Tour (£)	Cost of Tour without Accomdation (£)	Tota Tour Cost (£)
13		170		2210
	2		30	60
				2270

The individual breakdown for hotels, tour matches etc. is not known because that was taken care of the company. The travel costs are listed below along with the funding received from the union.

Charge Type	Date of Payment	Total (£)	Union Funding Received (£)	Net Costs (£)
Hire Chare	3/7/2013	290	90.46	281.35
Fuel Charge	3/7/2013	81.81		

Day by Day Account

- Day 1** The team set off from Imperial College to take on an Imperial Alumni team at Harlington sports ground, where they lost the match. After spending some time in the pub, the team got onto the minibus and made their way down to Bournemouth. Arriving late, we watched Brazil destroy Spain in the confederations cup final and had an early night.
- Day 2** After breakfast, we set off to the beach, for some overly competitive beach cricket, and made our way slowly down to Bournemouth Pier for lunch. Afterwards, we headed into Southampton for a 20 over match, where Imperial won a high scoring game. In the evening, we settled down to a game of poker for the night.

- Day 3 In the morning, we set off for paintball, hoping to make the best of a rainy day. We still managed to head to a 20 over match in the evening, which was won in the dark, with rain coming down. That night the braver amongst the touring party went out into Bournemouth town for a few responsible drinks and all made it back.
- Day 4 The final match of the tour was a 40 over game at Bramshaw, with a variety of local wildlife surrounding the pitch. With a very strong bowling performance, the match was won with plenty of time to spare. After a few drinks to commemorate a successful tour, the team headed back to London.

Attendance Breakdown

Members

Vignesh Venkateswaran, Vignesh Venkateraman, Simon Mitchell, Sam Mead, Will Baker, Makhan Gill, Chris Hong, Nikhil Patel, Mohit Kulkarni, Rajiv Bhar, Siddharth Kohli, Jack McCurley, Vishal Nair

Non-Full Members

Majid Ali, Ahsaan Ismail

Tour Dates

The tour started on 30th June and ended on 3rd July, spanning 3 days and four nights.

Did it achieve the aims and objectives as laid out in the proposal?

One of the main aims of the tour was to ensure all the members of the squad get a chance to play cricket. This was fulfilled as we had a rotation policy, where each member of the squad sat out for at least one game. However in addition, we also wanted to ensure that everyone had fun, both on and off the field. This was achieved by engaging in various team bonding activities such as paintballing, beach games and card games where we got to mingle with one another in an informal environment. As a result the team remained strong going into the games as well, everyone understanding each others game plans, and ended up losing only the first game on tour against a strong Alumni team.

Major Issues

Other than the British weather, there were no major issues that arose on the tour.

Members' Impressions

Vignesh Venkateswaran (Current 1st XI Captain)

ICUCC's tour to Bournemouth in the first week of July was short and sweet. Spanning 4 days and 3 nights, the tour entailed 4 games of cricket (+ a game of beach cricket), lots of time relaxing on the beach, a morning of paintball, some shopping and a lot of fun. I feel that, on the whole, it was a success. We demolished 3 out of the 4 teams we played, and the other game was a close finish. The time we spent off the cricket field (on the beach, around town, paintballing) allowed us to bond together and made the tour a lot more enjoyable for one and all. The game of paintball deserves special mention as it was painfully exciting and highly competitive (obviously, my team won!).

Makhan Gill

I joined the tour the evening after the Alumni game, coming from my home nearby in Southampton. Although I wished the nightlife in Bournemouth could have been livelier on Monday night, I found the tour to be very enjoyable overall, and was impressed that we managed to get a game every day. I found the Bournemouth tour to be a memorable experience and I look forward to the next cricket tour.

Mohit Kulkarni

As a member, I felt this tour was well organised starting right from the alumni game. There were no hiccups during the tour, and all the various events integrated seamlessly. While the focus remained on cricket, I appreciated all the off field activities. The location of the tour was chosen well, in accordance with the weather, as it was in Bournemouth in the summer, so we all got to enjoy the beach. I particularly enjoyed playing on the different grounds around the Bournemouth area, and felt that the outfield and pitch were very well maintained on most of them. The quality of the opposition was also good as we were challenged in each game. I believe the rotation policy was very fair as that ensured everyone got a chance to play, and we all had the opportunity of playing with different members. Given a chance, I would definitely go on tour again.

Improvements for the Future

Vignesh Venkateswaran (Current 1st XI Captain)

If I have to point out things we can improve on, I guess I would like the tour to be a bit longer as we had just started bonding really well when we had to pack up and return. A longer tour would also allow for a few more days of relaxation and one or two more games of cricket for us to showcase our talent in. Albeit we enjoyed Bournemouth, a lot of the team members are based in England so I'm sure they would appreciate a tour outside the country, next time around. Maybe we should also get some tour T-shirts or hoodies, just to keep as mementos so we can cherish the memories for years to come! Again, on a whole, I would say that this tour was a success and would like to thank ICUCC and the Tour Secretary for making it happen. Look forward to another exciting tour this season!

Tour Pictures







ACC Cross Country Tour Report/ Felix Article

Tour Dates: 7th – 14th September 2013

Attendance: 22 Full Members, 0 Non-members

Financial Breakdown

Expenditures		Income	
Accommodation	£1327	Subsidy	£319.2
Minibus hire	£504	ticket sales	£2670
Fuel minibus	£171.37		
Fuel car	131.03		
Severn Crossing	£18.6		
Food	£733.27		
Tour Vests	£370.32		
Profit/loss	-£266.39		

Full Itinerary

- Saturday – Drive up, quick 5km recce whilst food shopping done, dinner and bed
- Sunday - 7am 5k run, breakfast, morning run, lunch, afternoon run, stretching, dinner, bed
- Monday – breakfast, hill reps, lunch, long afternoon run, yoga, dinner, bed
- Tuesday – breakfast, really long Coastal run, lunch, relax, circuits, dinner, bed
- Wednesday – breakfast, morning run, travel to beach, lunch, Volleyball/beach sprints/swimming, dinner, bed
- Thursday – breakfast, morning run, travel to beach, sand dune reps, lunch, rounders, return, dinner, bed
- Friday – breakfast, morning run, circuits, lunch, time trial, final pub dinner, bed
- Saturday – breakfast, pack up, tidy up, drive home

Meeting the proposed objectives

Aims were:

“The training camp will be aimed at all level of abilities with a wide range of training activities designed to improve our members’ stamina, speed, and endurance. Pembrokeshire is the ideal location for this type of training as it has over 186 miles of coastal paths perfect for hill training, off road running and distance building. Pembrokeshire also boasts beaches which can be used for low impact training, long and triple jumping technique improvement and resistance training.”

Through the varied training program we were able to achieve our goals and aims by improving the fitness, speed and endurance of our members. We also built up a large morale within the club which has led to us already exceeding our membership target as everyone was so excited for the new season.

Changes made?

No changes to the aims were made to the proposed activities.

Incidents

There was minor incident where a member injured themselves in the accommodation’s back garden causing them to split open their knee. An ambulance car was called who treated the member at the scene by stitching the cut closed and advising them not to strain the injured leg for several days. They have made a full recovery and are already back in training. An accident report form was filled in on return from the Tour.

Felix Article

ICXC&A tours Pembrokeshire, Wales

Isabel Holding, 02nd October 2013

On Saturday the 7th of September twenty-two members of the Cross Country and Athletics Team gathered outside the Union to depart on a week-long running adventure to Pembroke. As a group of keen runners, we naturally considered jogging there, but soon decided to travel the 240 miles by mini-bus instead. The van, effortlessly navigated and driven by Matt Douthwaite, was loaded up with trainers, sports bags, games and twenty odd obligatory contributions of home baked goods.



Upon arrival we were welcomed by a spacious, seven bedroom house; with two sitting rooms and two kitchens, attached to a backyard with a terrace, a lawn and a pond. Not to mention the pool, optimal for resistance training and the hot tub, ideal for muscle recovery. All this and only minutes away from coastal running paths!

Although the focus throughout the week lay with running, we had many activities unrelated to XC on offer too. Everyone was keen to contribute in whatever way they could to fill our time with fun and new experiences. Vicki Solly held an introductory yoga class, in which she had us bending and stretching in ways previously unknown to many of us. As relaxing as it was at the time, this session left most of the participants sorer than after the 12km run from the previous day - proving to all sceptics that yoga is not just posing as a sport.



James Ellis conducted hill reps and Alwyn Elliot taught some basic Kung Fu, as well as the vital skill of lighting a log fire. Sophie Kirk planned the dinner menu for each day of the week and it goes without saying that we were very well fed!

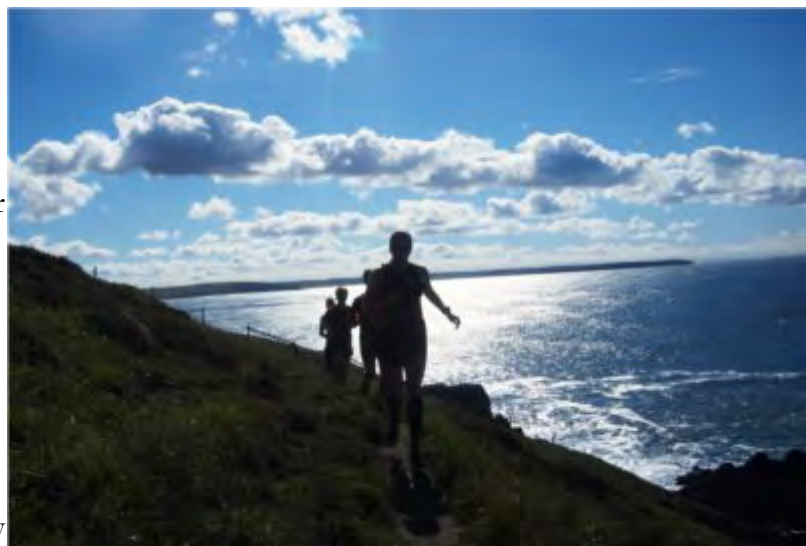


It is always fantastic to see the level of commitment and enthusiasm that goes into a club tour. Cross Country and Athletics captain Chris Bannon, who was unable to run, came along regardless of his injury and his upcoming exams. Harriet Nerva and Antoinette Hardijzer, both also had other important commitments that week, but didn't want to miss all of tour and so ended up staying for half the time. Despite having to make their way back on their own, they are both insistent that

the long train journey was worth it!

There was so much hype about this tour, we even had triathlon committee members, Siân Morgan and Ed Hallet, join us. Peter Spence also deserves a special mention here. As our designated cameraman, he was bold enough to take his camera everywhere we went and even faced runs along the steep, rocky coastal paths, with only one free hand.

However we witnessed another type of commitment on tour too, namely the commitment to the sport. While the rest of us were playing beach volleyball; or in the case of Richard Bennett, who was merrily letting himself be buried in the sand, Liam Smith was engaging in interval training alongside the water. Similarly while some of us were having a lie in and recovering from a late night, Laurence Tse and Matthias Knop were already tying up their trainers and getting ready to head out on a morning run.



In total six out of the twenty two tour participants were freshmen. Andreas Ekholm and Duncan Ingram both joined XC&A at the start of autumn term 2012. Equally Harveen Hayer, Oliver Ashe and I joined at this time and have now all taken on committee positions. This goes to show

how quickly one feels integrated in the club and just how welcoming the members of XC&A are! Having said all this, it would be great to see some new faces at our runs. Give XC&A a go and who knows, come next year, it may be you eagerly putting down your name for the XC&A Summer Tour 2014 sign up.



Football Club Tour Report

Key details

- Our tour ran from the 29th June to the 6th July 2013
- We spent 4 nights in Krakow, Poland followed by 3 nights in Wroclaw, Poland
- The tour was attended by 23 full members of the football club with 21 members attending for the full week (James Musgrave attended from 1st July – 5th July and Jonny Hill attended 29th June – 3rd July)

Activities report

- We took the 9.00am flight from London Stansted to Krakow, arriving at around 12.25pm local time. Upon arrival in Krakow we checked in to Giraffe hostel which was about a 5 minute walk from the market square which represented the centre of town. On the first afternoon we took a short walk to a local park and carried out a light training session which involved a few passing drills followed by several small sided matches.
- On the Sunday we had our first match of the trip. This match was against a local amateur team called Kadra GAP. Our performance in this match was disappointing as a lack of experience of playing together (the tour group was made up of members from all seven of our competitive teams) and a very technically good opposition combined to produce a 4-0 defeat.
- On Monday we took a rest day from football and a trip to a shooting range had been organised. After a thorough safety briefing each person shot a variety of guns at paper targets. This activity was very much enjoyed by all members giving us a chance to experience something new and bond over some healthy competition.
- On Tuesday we had our second match of the trip against OKS Zgodzianka Nowa Huta another local amateur team. We showed an improved performance in this match. However, a few individual mistakes cost us goals and the final result was a 4-2 defeat.
- Wednesday saw us travel from Krakow to Wroclaw by coach. The coach journey was scheduled to take 4 hours and leaving at 12 we planned to have an evening training session when we arrived in Wroclaw. However, the journey ended up taking almost 9 hours due to a severe road traffic accident meaning the coach remained stationary for around 4 hours. As a result we did not arrive at Cinnamon hostel in Wroclaw until around 9pm and the planned training session was cancelled.
- We attempted to re-organise a training session for Thursday but at such late notice we were not able to book a pitch. Thursday instead saw our tour dinner take place. This dinner was pre-paid and a more formal event than the other days meals. During the dinner I gave a brief review of the events of tour so far. The announcement of the “player of tour” award which is traditionally awarded at this dinner was delayed until after our final match the next evening.
- On Friday we played our final match against Wroclaw Institute of Technology. This match saw comfortably our best performance of the week perhaps as the group became more used to playing together as a team. Despite this we were unable to convert any of our chances

and tired towards the end of the match. A goal to the opposition just before half time was enough for them to take a 1-0 win.

- On Saturday we flew home from Wroclaw to London Stansted on the 1.25pm Flight

We did, of course, experience the nightlife of both cities which can only add to the enjoyment and experience of the week.

Finances

The total cost for each member was £255. This combined with the additional fees that were obtained from those only coming for part of the trip and deposits of late dropouts bought an income of £6060. The total expenditure was £7200. Adding the union's funding of £1280.63 gives a profit of £140 for the entire tour. We aimed to come out of tour break-even and this small profit represents emergency money that we had in case any additional expenditure was encountered whilst on tour.

General Perceptions

In general everyone was very happy with the tour. The football matches were particularly well enjoyed as were the two cities in general. The teams that we played against were all very friendly and seemed genuinely happy to be playing against us. They were keen to pose for photographs and speak with us during and after the matches.

The only major issue that arose during the week was the extended length of the coach journey. Obviously a traffic incident was out of our control and it is difficult to know how to deal with an incident like this other than attempt to keep everyone happy and occupied. Missing the training session and not being able to book the next day was frustrating and maybe, with hind sight, the training session could have been scheduled on the Thursday so that any problems with the coach would not affect the session.

Aims and Objectives

I believe that the aims and objectives of our tour were completely fulfilled. We experienced playing football against teams from a different country and different culture and showed an improvement in performances during the week as we became used to playing with each other. We bonded as a group and I feel that this can translate into a better atmosphere in the club moving into next season.

Gaelic Athletic Club Summer Tour 2013 Report

Dates: 3rd - 8th July 2013

Destination: Krakow & Prague

Attendance, Full Members:

Marek Broda
Lauren Byrne
Theresa Byrne
Padhraic Comerford
Ruth Reynolds
Hannah Riordan
Jerome Scullin
Sinead Ward

Aims & Objectives:

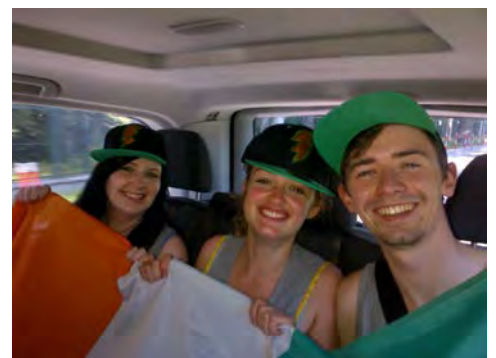
In accordance with our club constitution we wished to continue our dedication to the growth and development of Gaelic Sports both locally and internationally. Having established contact with Gaelic players in both Krakow and Prague who shared our love for the sport we believed that a tour to both cities would produce a number of mutual benefits. In Krakow we hoped to aid a group of Gaelic players who were keen to establish a team in the city. We hoped to arrange a joint training session with these keen men and women to encourage involvement and commitment of their future members and to share our practical knowledge of playing and coaching the sport. We believed the session would give publicity both to ourselves but also to the players in Krakow in order to help them establish their team.

If our reasoning behind our tour to Krakow was one of little competitive motivation our time in Prague would certainly be quite the opposite. We wanted to put Imperial College London on the map for excellence in Gaelic football. The Irish sports circle is very tight, even on a European level the top international clubs and known and respected back in Ireland. Prague is known to have an all be it small, but very accomplished team. With few university teams active in the South East of England, previous matches against European opposition have served as a fantastic opportunity to challenge ourselves against new and unfamiliar opposition, as well as being rare opportunities for our mens and ladies teams to merge and play mixed matches. The match would also serve as an opportunity to further network within the European Gaelic Football community with the hope of organising return fixtures here in London in the future.

Tour Diary

3rd July

It was an early start for our first day and despite one poorly timed lie-in, everyone made it to Victoria in time for our bus to Stansted, from where we would fly to our first destination, Krakow. After dropping our bags at our hostel, we spent the afternoon familiarising ourselves with our new surroundings with a stroll through the city. Our matching vests and hats proved surprisingly effective tools in our mission to promote Gaelic Football, as repeated episodes of strangers mistaking us for a



Support was strong for the Ivory Coast

dance troupe proved to be fantastic opportunities for us to explain our true identity and promote our open training session the following day. This continued into the evening, which we spent at a guided bar crawl lead by a member of the hostel staff.

4th July

Upon waking on the Thursday we decided to go on a free walking tour of the city's Jewish quarter, which had been recommended to us the night before by several other guests at the hostel. It was a fascinating experience and we learnt a lot not just about the role and history of the Jewish community in Krakow but also about Orthodox Judaism in general and some of the traditions and beliefs it upholds.

After the tour we returned to our hostel, where we met one of our contacts and headed to a local park for our joint training session. We lead those who turned up through a warm up before moving into some basic skills drills, and finished up with a small game situation. It was a very rewarding experience for both parties. For us it was a chance to sharpen our skills before our game with Prague and have a go at some coaching, something which is particularly important to us as we do not have any external coaches. For the locals not only did we provide someone to play with, but also helped attract attention and generate interest in the sport, with several passers by stopping to ask what sport we were playing. As a young club ourselves, we were also able to share our experiences of starting up and running a successful club and we hope that this will help the Krakow players establish themselves in the near future.

The exertion had taken its toll so we returned to our hostel to shower and make the most of the hostels free dinner. After a lengthy wait for certain tourists to get ready, we eventually made it out of the hostel and made for the Jewish Quarter where our tour guide had earlier advised us of a bar which was popular with the locals. It didn't disappoint and we spent a great evening in one of its candlelit rooms.

5th July

Friday morning had come around fast and it was time for us to check out of our hostel. With a limited amount of currency or energy left for our last day in Poland we decided against going on the trip to the local salt mines and instead opted to explore the city on foot on our own. Progress was slow, however, as we were first distracted by a group of friendly pigeons in the main square before a torrential downpour then struck and we were left running for cover. Eventually the skies cleared and we continued on, paying a visit first to the impressive Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, where we had a quiet moment of reflection before we moved on.

Next up was the Wawel Royal Castle, whose steep surrounding hills proved ideal for some impromptu hill sprint fitness training. We then wandered around inside the castle for a while and after enjoying a few songs in the quad by a group of a capella singers decided to give it a go ourselves, putting together a surprisingly acceptable rendition of "We All Dream of a Team of Gary Breens".

With our departure for Prague looming, we sat down for our last supper in a beautiful restaurant in the square before grabbing our bags from the hostel and headed for the train station. Next stop Prague!



Last supper in Krakow

6th July

The heat and noise on the train had made it difficult to sleep, so after a painfully long search for our new hostel the majority of the party spent the morning resting there when we eventually arrived. A hardy few went out in search of somewhere showing the Lions game but the venture would prove futile as after an hour and a half of wandering around, not a single place could be found. Oh well, not like it would turn out to be one of the best results the Lions have ever achieved or anything . . .

The evening saw our long awaited match against the Prague Hibernians. One of the opposition had kindly agreed to meet us at our hostel and take us to the pitch, which was on the outskirts of the city. We togged out , warmed up and broke into some skills training lead by the opposition's coach. Upon the arrival of their last couple of players, it was time for the game, which would be played in four periods of ten minutes. At only eight a side it was a fast and open game, and our lack of match practice since February became apparent early on as Prague built a healthy lead. The first break gave us a chance to regroup and rethink our tactics, and a decision to focus on working the ball up the field by hand passing saw us make a marked improvement in the second quarter, as we began to knock over scores and work our way back into the game. This was aided by Sinead Ward pulling off some great saves in goal. Our ascendancy continued in the third quarter, in which we put together some great passes and provided plenty of ball to centre-forward and Man of the Match Jerome Scullin who duly converted the vast majority of opportunities. It was all to play for going into the final quarter, but it was to be Prague who took the initiative, exposing our tired legs to seal the victory with a flurry of goals.

A bottle of the finest tonic wine was presented to Hibs to thank them for hosting the match, before we all headed off to shower and change ahead of our arranged meeting later that evening for post-match analysis in one of Prague's most popular beer gardens. A good night was had by all as our hosts showed us how they do things in Prague!



Our well disciplined players marking in defence



Team photo with our opposition, Prague Hibernians

7th July

The effects of a hectic couple of days were being felt so we stayed in bed most of the morning to recuperate before heading into town for typical tourist activities. We tagged along on a walking tour of the old town, taking in the sights such as the clock tower, and followed it up with a cruise which took us along the river to Charles' Bridge and through Prague Venice. The tourist theme continued as we ordered traditional Czech cuisine for our last dinner in Prague and had a stroll across Charles' bridge before returning to the hostel to shower and change ready for our last night.

A bar near Charles' bridge would play host for the evening, and despite a busy week, we soldiered on until the early hours of the morning before retreating to our hostel for the last time.

8th July

It was another early start for our return journey but we were prepared with a symphony of alarms. A bus from outside the train station took us straight to the airport where we checked in with plenty of time to spare. Wizz Air's hand luggage restrictions were tight to say the least and it seemed the staff were out to get us even when our bags clearly fitted. But some clever reallocation and layering on of clothes helped us all avoid the fine, and we boarded the plane in unconventional combinations of 'accessory' clothing.

Upon our return we descended on the union to drop the kit and debrief, and basically do anything to avoid having to call an end to the tour!

Financial State

The funding for the union helped towards making the travel expenses more manageable. The extra funds were greatly appreciated by all in attendance. We aimed to make the total cost under £200 per person. In the end it worked out as £218 per person before the union grant is taken into account this meant that we kept to our target and made it an affordable enjoyable way to achieve our clubs ethos of the growth and development of our sport and club.

Conclusion

On the whole the tour was a huge success. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all members of the tour party, and passed smoothly, with no major issues to report, thanks in part to the organisation and planning which had been done before we went.

In terms of our objectives, we certainly raised the profile of Gaelic Games in Krakow, but it remains to see whether the interest we helped generate will be enough to help the players establish a club of their own. As for our game in Prague, despite the result there are many benefits which have come about. Firstly, we have continued to build our reputation within European Gaelic Football, and the network we have developed will hopefully help us towards hosting some European teams in the near future – Prague for one have already expressed an interest in this. Secondly, in terms of our development, the chance to challenge ourselves against different opposition in a mixed game was a fantastic learning experience, and taught us in particular a lot about the differing styles of play required in reduced numbers games - this experience is bound to be invaluable at the sevens championships next year. Finally, the fixture has provided publicity for both sides, with one of Prague's players on the day having signed up only after hearing about the fixture. We are confident that the extra exposure our club had and will continue to have will help us attract new members in the same way come the start of next year.

Thanks again to IC Trust and to the union for their continued support, without which this tour wouldn't have been possible!

ACC Hockey Tour Report

A full financial breakdown of the tour

See attached budget spreadsheet

A day by day account of what occurred i.e. activities etc

Tuesday (02/07/13)

Flew out of Gatwick airport 0725, arrive at Madrid 1230

Travel by coach to Hostel 360 in Madrid

Split into two groups for evening meal in city centre

Wednesday

Visited water park outside of Madrid and also cultural sites within the city, eg. Royal Palace, Catedral de la Almudena and the Prado museum

Thursday

Played hockey match in the afternoon against Los Naranjas. The Hockey consisted of a tournament between 3 mixed teams from ICHC and a team from Los Naranjas. In total 7 matches of hockey were played, the final match between the best IC side against the best side from Los Naranjas. The result was a 0-0 draw.

Friday

Travel by coach to Valencia, arrived at the Purple Nest hostel at midday, rest of day was spent unpacking and exploring local area around hostel.

Saturday

Played a match against Valencia Club de Hockey, same tournament set up as in Madrid. IC fielded 3 mixed teams and VHC had 1. Played a total of 5 games over the course of the morning.

Sunday

Visited the Aquarium and City of Arts and Sciences.

Monday

A day of cultural visits and resting on the beach

Tuesday

Travel by coach to Barcelona, arrived at the Yellow Nest at midday.

Did some sight seeing, visited the Arc de Triumph in the afternoon after travelling and walked along the coast and back up through the old part of the city.

Wednesday

Visit to La Sagrada Familia and the Gaudi Park.

Thursday

Visited the camp nou football stadium in the morning

Played hockey in the evening against Castelldefels Hockey Club. A full length mens' match incorporating the selection of male players in the tour. The result was a 3-2 loss.

Friday

Visited the Olympic park and the Picasso museum
Tour dinner with all tour members at a local restaurant near the hostel.

Number of members attending (full and not full members)

36 full members

Dates of the tour

02/07/2013 – 13/07/2013

Did it achieve the aims and objectives as laid out in the proposal

Yes, we aimed to play 9 games of hockey and in the end played 12 by creating tournaments comprising of our own teams and the teams from the local clubs. The games incorporated all the members on the tour and also were mixed and inclusive of the range of abilities. In this way we improved the social side of members who would not normally play together as well as this facilitating the skill progression of our lower team members by playing alongside players from higher teams.

Were there any changes to the proposed aims or activities

Played more hockey matches than initially proposed.

Any major issues that arose whilst on tour

None

Tour reports may also include:

Photos

See attached image folder

We would also like to include an email from the hockey club we visited in Barcelona (:

From: Paul Gregson [Paul@Gregson.net]

Sent: 12 July 2013 12:00

To: Stevenson, Harriet; Lacey, Edward

Subject: Hockey

Dear Harriet & Edward,

It was a pleasure to meet you both yesterday and I think it's safe to say we all had a good time. You all made a very positive impact on our 'local' players who are starting to understand that hockey is in fact a game of three halves! Good luck to you all and Imperial College Hockey Club are always welcome at Castelldefels.

Paul

ICU Kendo Club Summer Tour Report

Tour dates: 01/07/2013 – 14/07/2013

People attended:

Usman Khan	Full Member
Takayuki Hazu	Full Member
Jake Humphrey	Full Member
Joseph Yao	Full Member
Emiko Yoshikawa	Kendo Instructor
Trang Tran	Non-member

What happened:

01/07/2013 – 03/07/2013: *Arriving in Japan & Seminar with Sueno-sensei*

We arrived at Kagoshima airport by mid-afternoon where Emiko, our kendo instructor, picked us up and drove us to Kirishima. After checking into our hotel we familiarised ourselves with the facilities and local area. Later that day Mr Sueno joined us and we went to a restaurant to eat.

Mr Sueno is 65 and holds the highest grade possible in modern kendo, hachi-dan hanshi (8th grade, highest title), and also, in his youth, was a winner of the prestigious All-Japan Kendo Championship. He is without a doubt one of the best kendo masters in the world and the teacher of Emiko-sensei.

For the next 2 days we practiced 6 hours of kendo per day under the guidance of Sueno-sensei.



This included talks on kendo theory as well as actual kendo practice. The experience was very



rewarding and all of our kendo definitely improved. This is beneficial to Imperial Kendo Club as it raises the skill level of our players which will help us in university competitions.

After the seminars were over we presented Sueno-sensei with some gifts for his time and welcomed him to visit us in London again.

04/07/2013 – 06/07/2013: Visiting Shigakukan University

We then travelled via train to Kagoshima city and were formally greeted at Shigakukan University by officials and students. Key figures in the university and the kendo club gave speeches as well as all of us Imperial Kendo Club members. After this we presented Shigakukan with gifts and posed for pictures. Students then showed us around the university before we were taken to the dojo for a 2 hour kendo practice session.



After the kendo session we were taken to a welcoming celebration in a nearby hotel along with the entire kendo club and other university officials. The food was great and there were many speeches given plus we each received gifts from Shigakukan Kendo Club. It was here that we met the host families that were each going to take one of us in to live with them for the next 4 nights.



The next morning we met in central Kagoshima for some sightseeing before going back to the university. Shigakukan had prepared for us to visit a Japanese tea house to experience a traditional Japanese tea ceremony and then attend a calligraphy class.

After the cultural exchange was over we took part in another 2 hour kendo session with Shigakukan. During this session, Shigakukan held a practice tournament between themselves to show us the level of kendo practiced in their sports oriented university. Our retiring captain, Takayuki Hazu, was skilled enough to take part in the final stages of the tournament.

Overall, this was a great experience as we were able to see the level of kendo practiced by people our age in Japan as well as use the teachings of Sueno-sensei to keep up with them and show them the skill of Imperial Kendo Club. Most of our members on the trip had only been doing kendo for 1 or 2 years in comparison to the 10+ years for Shigakukan students.

We spent the rest of the day with our respective host families.

On our last day with Shigakukan University, we were taken to an All-Japan Kendo Championship women's final in the morning where many students from the university were competing. After this we returned to Shigakukan University for our last practice session with them and then presented the teacher with gifts before posing for pictures.



Later that day we attended another formal dinner/ceremony with key members from Shigakukan University, including both the Rector and Dean of Shigakukan as well as our host families. We



exchanged gifts and thanked everyone for their hospitality.

For our last day in Kagoshima, we each spent it with our host families. The range of activities varied from visiting temples or volcanoes to going to karaoke or fishing. A much needed relaxing day after 5 consecutive days of kendo.

07/07/2013 – 10/07/2013: Sightseeing in Osaka, Kyoto and Nagoya plus Kendo in Osaka Castle

We activated our Japanese Rail passes today, as they only last for 7 days, and took the bullet train to Osaka. Upon arrival, in the afternoon, we proceeded to check into our hotel before taking a train to the nearby city of Kyoto.



Here we visited many historic shrines and took in the beauty of Japan.

The next day we visited many more historic sites in Kyoto including Buddhist and Shinto temples.



Later that evening we were greeted by Mr Masagaki who is a kendo teacher in the UK. He took us to practice kendo at the famous Syudokan dojo in the centre of Osaka Castle. Here we met many famous kendo masters and practiced with people of a very high calibre, including members of the British Kendo Team.



After the session we joined many senior instructors from the dojo for a meal at a nearby restaurant.

The following day we checked out of our hotel and left Osaka via bullet train to Nagoya. Upon arrival in Nagoya, we checked into our hotel and proceeded to spend the day visiting local sights such as Nagoya Castle and Atsuta Jingu.

11/07/2013 – 14/07/2013: *Visiting Hitotsubashi University & Leaving Japan*

Our final journey on the bullet train took us to Tokyo where, after checking into a hotel in Tachikawa, we were greeted by students of Hitotsubashi University.



We took part in a 2 hour kendo session with Hitotsubashi Kendo Club before heading to a restaurant to socialise with the club members. Hitotsubashi previously visited us in February 2012 and we held joint practice sessions in the union gym as well as a tournament in Ethos.

The following day we were taken sightseeing in the very early morning to Tsukiji fish market and then also visited other parts of Tokyo such as a tourist resort.



That afternoon we took part in a 5v5 competition between Imperial and Hitotsubashi students. The result of the match was a loss for us but nonetheless the experience was a great one. After this we did a normal 2 hour kendo training session and then visited another restaurant with more people from the kendo club.



On our last day as guests of Hitotsubashi University, we had a 2 hour kendo session in the morning followed by a formal celebration to mark our visit and continued effort to build ties between universities.



This was a formal event, hosted in the university and attended by many student and key figures of Hitotsubashi University, including the dean. We exchanged gifts with Hitotsubashi and took part in cultural activities such as listening to a Japanese string sextet and taking part in a tea ceremony.

With our last day in Japan, we visited some shrines in Narita, did some souvenir shopping and then had dinner in Narita airport before flying back to London.

Financial state of tour:

The trip was self-funded by the students travelling.

Cost Breakdown:

Flights:	£767.04
Trains:	£180.00
Travel Insurance:	£36.89
Japanese SIM:	£28.54
Accommodation:	~£300
Food:	~£300
Total Cost:	£1,612.47
Total Travel Cost:	£947.04

Did the tour achieve its Aims and Objectives?

The aims and objectives of the tour were to develop lasting relationships between Imperial Kendo Club and two Japanese universities, Shigakukan and Hitotsubashi, as well as improving the kendo of all of the members attending the trip. These aims and objectives were met and we expect both universities to be visiting us in London next year where we will take part in more kendo competitions together and engage in further cultural exchanges.

Any changes to proposed A&O and activities? No

Any issues? No

Members' impressions:

Usman Khan: *'It was a great experience and I really enjoyed being able to experience Japanese culture.'*

Jake Humphrey: *"A rare opportunity. I had lots of fun, and met loads of nice people."*

Joseph Yao: *'It was an exciting and fruitful trip that I would, without a doubt, recommend to the rest of the kendoka in our club and all future members too.'*

Future improvements:

Try to get more members going next time. In 2009, the last time Imperial College Kendo Club visited Japan there were around 15 members who went. If we can get double the number and get at least 10 people going next time then we can engage in more tournaments with Japanese universities and improve the strength of our kendo club.

Imperial College Union Women's Rugby Football Club

Summer Tour 2013

Location: Newquay Surf 7s tournament

Dates: Friday 28 July – Sunday 30 July

Attendees: 16 full paying members

Friday: Three cars set off from attendees' homes in Hammersmith between 17.00 and 18.00 and one member left London by bus in the late evening. The drive was long with cars arriving between 22.00 and midnight after some poor driving conditions caused by fog. We worked as a team to set up our tents and then took the time to relax and have some dinner and socialise with some of the neighbouring teams.

Saturday: We woke up early for the tournament, registering by 08.30 and starting to warm up and run through some team moves by 09.00. Our first game was at 09.30 against Moody cows which we lost 17-15 after a close game. By the second game we had warmed up and managed to beat Bristol 12- 5 with some impressive moves in the backs and a fantastic hand-off to score the first try. We had over an hour break until our third game so went to join some of the other teams and watch the British and Irish Lions in their second test against Australia and have some lunch. Our third and fourth games were close together producing wins of 7-5 and 10-0 putting us through to the final round. This game was against strong competition, Loughborough who came second in the BUCS premiership 15s competition this year, a full three leagues above ICUWRFC. We set out a strong side and played well, defending our ground and not letting their players break our line. Our girls put up a great fight but the score at the final whistle was 5-15 knocking us out of the competition. We stayed and watched the final games, cheering on some teams we had been socialising with earlier on then went to get ready for the evening entertainment. We had dinner as a team and attended a social event for all the teams in Newquay.

Sunday: We did not have a tournament to play on this day but did some training in the morning and played some friendly games against other teams who were around. It was a great opportunity for girls to try some different positions and be creative in the game without the pressure of performing to win a competition. We watched some games in three of the mens competitions throughout the day and bonded together as a team. More experienced girls explained some of the more complex rules to newer players and we used this time to get ideas for new set plays and moves and talk about our performance in the games the previous day. When all of the weekends competitions were over we packed up our tents and belongings into the cars and set off to have a team meal in Newquay on the beach before we left for London.

How to improve the tour for the future: One thing that would improve the tour is to rent a minibus instead of taking three cars with us. This was not done as initially some people planned to leave on Sunday and some on Monday but in the end everyone left on a Sunday. All travelling together is good for team bonding and ensuring we all arrive together.

Aims and Objectives: We achieved the aims and objectives of the submitted tour proposal. We trained and played together and also interacted with other teams, players and referees which can create opportunities for our members in Rugby and beyond. We have some good links with Wasps and this has developed to some of our members playing for them in the Championship and the Premiership. This tour was also a great opportunity to bond as a team on and off the pitch by creating an environment away from University where we had to work as a team in activities associated with camping.

Changes: Initially only one car was going to leave on the Sunday night but all cars left at this time. This was due to the knowledge of the ending of Glastonbury Festival on Monday morning which would have created a lot of traffic on our routes back to London.



This is a photo of some of the team members during the tournament on the Saturday.



This is a photo from the Saturday evening before we went to a social event in Newquay with the other teams. We had a fancy dress theme of 'The Wizard of Oz' with each member being given a different character or object to dress as and then work together on creating the outfits.

TENNIS TOUR REPORT:

1.) Number of members attending:

- 10 full members of ICSM Tennis club went on tour.

2.) Dates of tour

Our tour took place between the 7th and the 12th of July 2013 (5 nights, 6 days).

3.) What happened while on tour – i.e. activities, etc.

- Sunday: Arrived in Palma. Found the hostel. Settled in. Went for a meal by the harbor. Got an early night as everyone was knackered from travelling (having to be up at 3am to get our flight at 6am from Gatwick).
- Monday: Our first clay court session took place between 10am-1pm. We then went out to the “town” to explore. (See picture 2)
- Tuesday: Our first clay court match. After a baptism of fire playing on the clay, we did OK. We lost overall but a good time was had by all and a friendly atmosphere meant we had an enjoyable day. (Some took to the clay more than others. See picture 3). We had a relaxed night out by the harbor front, where a local told us the blue yacht from James Bond was there!
- Wednesday: We had another clay court practice session between 10am-1pm. We then ventured to the beach (as if we hadn't had enough sun already!).
- Thursday: There had been a mix up with the second team so we played amongst ourselves. We went to the beach again and then to celebrate our last night, we had a fancy dress night out in Palma (see picture 4). The theme was retro tennis!
- Friday: We packed up and squeezed in one last clay court session for those that wanted it before flying back to Heathrow. Those that did not participate squeezed in a spot of shopping.

4.) Financial state of the tour:

☐☐☐ Tour took place within the budget initially laid out. Court costs were reduced as the club paid for courts for the match.

5.) Did it achieve the Aims and Objectives as laid out in the application.

- Tour achieved all of the aims and objectives laid out in the application. We played tennis for the majority of the trip, taking on opposition from the Mallorca tennis Club after practice on the clay courts. We didn't make it to the Arabian baths as these were too far away and the majority of the touring party would rather have gone to the beach!

6.) Were there any changes to the proposed A&O and Activities.

☐☐☐ We only played one of the scheduled matches due to timing issues.

7.) Members' impressions of the tour.

☐☐☐ All of those on tour enjoyed themselves a great deal. They have already been asking about potential destinations for next year.

8.) Any major issues which arose while on tour.

- Whilst not a major issue, we planned to play two matches but could only play one due to timing constraints.

9.) How to improve for the future.

☐☐☐ Improved communication before tour to make sure the team is still able to play on a certain date. Despite this, there was very little to improve on this tour for next time. Air conditioning would have been nice in the rooms though!

10.) Photos!





Imperial College Hindu Society - Summer Tour (Retreat) Report

Number Attending:

Members – 10

Non-Members – 4

Dates:

Friday 20th September – Sunday 22nd September 2013

Activities:

Day 1 - Aira Force Waterfall:

Having taken a minibus to the Lake District, we spent time at this waterfall, enjoying the sights and having lunch. We then explored the area, on a long walk, before taking the coach to the campsite.

Day 1 - Camping:

This was truly a team building exercise, since it was dark by the time we reached the campsite, making it very difficult to build a 20 man tent. But people who had previous camping experience took the lead and this helped us to do so.

Day 2 - Ghyll Scrambling:

Ghyll scrambling was a new experience for everyone, as no one had done something of this sort previously. But everyone really enjoyed it, and again, the activity did promote a lot of bonding, as those that were more comfortable swimmers were able to help out those that were less comfortable in water.

Day 3 - Motor Boating:

At Lake Coniston, we hired out 2 motor boats – one for the girls, and one for the boys, and had a boat trip around the lake for 2 hours. This was fun, as we had competitions between the two boats, and the people on the boats themselves also got to spend a lot of time together.

Day 3 - Temple Visit:

The temple visit, to the Shri Balaji Temple, was a very nice way to round off the trip, as everyone on the tour seemed to enjoy the spirituality of the temple, and felt that it was a nice change to the comparatively loud activities over the previous couple of days.

Financial States of Tour:

Expenditure:

Activity	Total Cost
Coach (Travel)	£1015
Camping	£80
Ghyll Scrambling	£200
Boating	£65
Food	£15
Total	£1375

Income:

Tickets	14
Ticket Price	£95
Total	£1330

Aims and Objectives:

The aim for this summer tour was to promote team bonding amongst the society – we do have a large committee, but as well as that, the Hindu Society also finds that friends of the committee who are in the society also play a pivotal role at events throughout the

year, and we felt that this would be a novel way to bring everyone together to bond. An additional aim was for us to explore our religion and culture, as this forms the very basis of our society, as a faith society.

Members' Impressions:

Everyone that came on the tour thoroughly enjoyed it! On our way back, people on the tour had already started talking about what we ought to do for our next tour, as it was so enjoyable. Some people went so far as to say that we ought to have another tour within this academic year itself. And since we have come back, the committee have repeatedly been told how much people have been missing the trip. People found that over the weekend, they got to know a lot of other people a lot better than they had done in the past, and we are hoping that this will result in a very successful coming year for us.

Changes to Original Plan:

The biggest change that was made was that in the destination of the summer tour. Initially, the plan had been to visit the temple in Skanda Vale, in Wales, and for the activity to be high ropes. However, we found that travelling to this temple would not be convenient, as the train times did not align with how we had been planning the trip. On this basis, we decided on a different destination for the summer tour – the Lake District, which was a lot easier to travel to once we decided on hiring a minibus. We then decided on a new activity and temple, depending on what was available in/near the Lake District, and chose to go for Ghyll Scrambling as the activity, and the Shri Balaji Temple.

Major Issues:

Some people backed out at the last minute, due to unexpected commitments and unforeseen circumstances, resulting in us having to downgrade the coach, making the tour less cost effective than we had originally hoped for, and eventually even resulting in a bit of a loss of the society.

Photos:



How to Improve:

Ask people to put down a deposit so that people are less likely to back out of the commitment, and that way the society will not be left in a position where it has to bear the costs instead, and will thus not make a loss overall.



Imperial College Canoe Club
Summer Tour

28 June - 21 July 2013



Full members

Tom Leeman
Alby Roseveare
Patrick Sterling
Jake Reynolds
Reece Blunt
Jamie Koston
Alex Haley
Moritz Unmann
Tom Watson
Alex Robinson
Aron Dehghan
Sarah Wooley
Marcus Rose

Life/associate members

Adam Holland
Rob Macrae
Rik Williams
Ally Cott
Helen Cinnamond
Joe Bibby
Joe Freeman
Rachel Fox

Visitors

Ralph Evins
Patrick Clissold
Eleri Clissold

Cost

Transport	£2702.62
Food	£1435.35
Accommodation	£2161.15
Total	£6299.12
(per person week £139.98)	

Friday 28 June Saturday 29 June

Buses, cars and students arrived at the union throughout the afternoon and prepared kit/themselves for the adventure to come.

By 4pm Tom L's car carrying Tom, Reece, Alby and Patrick S had set off as had Rachel and Ally whilst the bus fuffed hard and collected the stragglers. Eventually we all caught ferries at varying times throughout the night and the long drive to Slovenia had begun.

The drive through the night continued and by 9am the leaders of the pack in Tom's car were passing Munich just as the fly drivers set down. A beautiful drive through Austria, Italy and finally Slovenia sees Tom's car arriving in Bovec at 2.20pm whilst the bus and Rachel's car fall further behind.

After finding the tourist information office and buying paddling permits (and beers) the faffless team of four headed to Srpénica and put on for an afternoon bash down the graveyard section of the Soca, which turned out to be a lovely 40

Right: En route





minute section of grade 3 down to Trnovo.

With no shuttle vehicle Alby was left to hitch a lift with a well tanned raft guide and a collection of Spanish rafting babes back to the put-in. The fly drivers and Rachel's car arrived in the meantime so after a swift beer the paddlers returned to the planned campsite in Bovec, Kamp Toni, to discuss options and prices.

After much discussion and scouting the campsite at Trnovo was chosen and the convoy made it's way there to set up camp. The bus (with an ingeniously engineered sound system having discovered we were locked out of the radio) finally arrived and couscous and sausagey sauce was devoured by all. Fire, beers and banter ensued but an early night was had by most.



*Top: The Soca from the bank
Bottom: Camp at Trnovo*

Sunday 30 June

The start to the day was slowish. A party was sent to Bovec for tea and beers and a group purchase of river permits, during which Joe B made an impulse shirt purchase (it was a nice shirt).

One and a half hours later the party return to camp where faff ensues. "Throw line" practise was taking place on the field... from inspection more practise is required. After a little more faff at the put-in, everyone puts on for the graveyard section in Srpenica. Despite his best efforts to shake off the faffmaister title, Rob managed to get on and paddle for a considerable chunk of the run before realising he'd left his BA in the car park and walking out.

The run was a lovely paddle in blazing sunshine and a good start to the trip for everyone with a couple of anonymous swims to keep things interesting. The first group scout the slalom course which starts at the graveyard get out and a small contingent decide to tackle it – a smashing step up in difficulty. On completing the run team slalom hike further downstream to inspect the notorious "siphon canyon" (any



Right: Throw line practise



less daunting name accepted). After hitching through the village back to the bus (minus Stoic Joe) team slalom got back to the camp for another quick and successful paddle down the same section.

Meanwhile the rest of the group re-tackled the graveyard, revolting against river Nazi Joe's leadership. Questionable kebabs and pasta were enjoyed for dinner and once most had retired to the sleeping quarters Reece and Patrick began international liaisons with some neighbouring Czechs.

The day started with the usual stale bread and jam combo before the 'gnarl' paddlers (Tom L, Alby, Joe F and Mo) tackled the graveyard leading into siphon canyon without incident.

Clean and aesthetic drops made the run down a pleasure with only a couple of portages around heinous death siphons, as the title suggests. The team made it to the get on for the lower Soca section at the agreed time only to find

Left: The Graveyard get on

little sign of life waiting for us. The rest of the gang were to meet us at the get on but the breakaway group including Jamie, Jake, Reece, Patrick S, Tom W and Aron had other ideas as they went full retard and walked almost the length of the river without descending into the valley. Eventually realising their error they returned to find the rest of the group sunning themselves in preparation for the gnarly run to come.

Some rock jumping distracted us momentarily before the whole crew set off downstream. Injury struck on the first rapid with Reece attempting to roll into a rock and slide his face down it. The rest of the run was more successful with only a few swims. Minor faff was created when Helen swam the length of a rapid and lost her blades. After some inappropriate 'medical' touching from Leeman the team continued down the river with Mo forgoing his paddles for Hels and hand paddling (and swimming) straight into the nearest hole swiftly followed by Rachel who also threw her blades away. After collecting the swimmers and boats Rachel's



*Top: Alby in the canyon
Bottom: Tom L flaring*



paddles were spotted by the bank and kit was reunited.

All groups battled their way to the get out with team work and morale running high! A swift return to camp saw another early night for us all.

For a change of scenery it was decided that the Koritnica, a trib of the Soca just beyond Bovec, should be tackled. The river turned out to be a gem of a run (if a little low) with a deep narrow gorge for 2 early swims.

Tom L and Rachel formed team media and collected picturesque shots as the club barrelled down. Some sunbathing at the get out at Camp Toni was had by the most swift of groups before we all carried the boats up through the camp and devoured bread, cheese and salami for lunch.

A dozen paddlers opted for another run down the graveyard section which saw an unprecedented number of swims/rolls usually

Left: The gorge on the lower Soca

due to laughing too vigorously at (apparently) amusingly meagre features (Helen). Half had had enough by the time we reached our campsite and opted for river beers and G&Ts whilst the other half continued down the slalom course, a first for some.

Half way down the entry rapid Jake was capsized and after a valiant effort rolling popped out of his boat and lodged himself midstream against a rock. After an initial throw line attempt failed with each tug pulling Jake under water it became clear that his deck loop was snagged on a submerged branch (Jake: "DECK. LOOP. ON. TREE. GLBGLBGLB "). A swift live bait lead to an intimate moment between Alby and Jake mid flow during which more inappropriate touching eventually released Jake from his captive tree.

The rest of the group continued down river with ace paddling from Jamie and no paddling from Reece whilst Jake, although not the least bit shaken, decided to walk out. Many sausage jokes accompanied our dinner along with beers to



*Top: ICCC styling the Koritnica
Bottom: Aaron showing off*



wash away the day's excitement... if anything should drive a man to the bottle it might be an experience like that but Jake held out to our amazement.

Alby, Tom L, Bill (Joe B's more positive alter ego), Patrick and Reece enjoy an early faff free run down the obstacle (slalom) course starting at the campsite.

Reece and Bill leave the group as the rest proceed down siphon canyon, a first for "fresher" Patrick, without incident and some clean lines down the lovely drops. Reece and Joe F walk down some of the way with us providing photos, much entertainment and the only swim on the section – Reece bends down to fill up his water bottle with the crystal clear water and falls in mid flow fully clothed! a truly magical moment.

Faff rears its ugly head as we make our way to the lower 'walk-in' section for the second time. People manage to go the right way and all is organised in due time.

*Far left: Koritnica
Left: Koritnica*

The start of the river is intense with Jake sporting several rolls and a mid river collision with a rock from Alex H leads to some involved first aid and complex shuttle organisation from some groups. After capsizing and attempting to roll Alex found himself kissing a rock underwater and decided enough was enough. On popping his deck the rest of the group saw him emerge, blood dripping, and quickly got him to the side. Much oohing and aahing ensued as it became clear there was a small chunk of flesh was missing from his chin. A quick patch up by the river side whilst Ally and Rik hiked up the valley to find the van ensured an efficient trip to the local clinic in Tolmin where Alex received a few stitches. A collection of non-paddlers plus Ally and Marcus accompanied the mission to the clinic leaving Alby, Rach and Rik to paddle the 6 boats down to the get out (2 runs were required!).

Eventually everyone re-grouped back at camp with lots of stories to tell. Games of volley ball keep the competitors occupied before dinner is announced...upon which the games continue with the same

Right: Mo enjoying himself





ferocity, pork chops can wait.

Eventually Bill, Jamie and Reece emerge victorious and choose the best of the pork chops! A marinade is improvised using the mystery tin of Mango puree and everyone enjoys the result.

Today we left Slovenia for Austria. Despite a relatively early start there was a lot of faff getting all the tents down, bus packed and campsite cleaned up. Joe thoroughly enjoyed the drive through Slovenia, Italy and the first part of Austria over some stunning mountain passes.

Tom L and Mo had identified the Lieser as a good river en route to paddle and everyone got on minus Alex H (post chin-gate recovery) and Rik who wanted to wander.

We found a cyclist who had destroyed his bike at the get on so dropped him off in Spittal whilst shuttling. It was at this point that everything started to go a little pear shaped; it turned out that the road which the take out was on was closed

Left: Jamie

due to a rock fall. Accompanied by Rik with his soothing aura Alex kept calm and detoured to try to find an alternative get out. Soon after, Alby got in touch to say that he and Helen needed extraction from the river due to Helen knocking her head and subsequently her confidence. After more get out searching and a second, slightly bewildered call from Alby the bus came to their rescue and swiftly found the rest of the paddlers as they arrived at the alternative get out having enjoyed a good grade 2/3 run down.

We all made it to Metrei in Osttirol and found the most awful campsite I have ever seen (Alex H)! Bang in the centre of town and very much 'Stepford wives' it was vetoed by all. A long drive up the Isel valley lead us to a remote campsite attached to a guesthouse in Virgen which looked more promising.

A surreal encounter with the owner who was red faced, clad in lederhosen and stumbling around with alcohol on his breath lead to a great camping deal being struck. Patrick C and Eleri joined us today too! Although it was 4th July and



Right: Camp in Virgen



Joe B had hyped up his celebrations a fairly subdued evening was had by most, save a smashed Joe in a Yeti costume.

The gang awoke to their first real day in Autria and enjoyed a spectacular bread and jam breakfast.

Once everybody was ready we drove to a section of the Isel which started just below Matrei. After some faff looking for a suitable get on/off everyone except Helen, Sarah, Alex, Jake and Eleri put on for a great 3km section of big and bouncy grade 3/4, at the end of which everybody was reunited and enjoyed a more relaxed 8km paddle of grade 2/3. It was the first real big volume alpine river of the trip and nerves were running high before we got on. The first section was a great high volume high speed run with lots of stoppers – one the whole river wide – but fortunately there were NO swims (probably a few rolls, guessing Reece...)! Woop! With adrenaline running high we joined team 2 and continued down the easier second section.

Left: The team prepare themselves

A few terrifying moments and some faffing later the group reached the end with no swims to find a lunch of sausage, cheese and bread awaiting us.

The team then further divided and the keen beans (Reece, Patrick C, Tom L, Joe F and Mo) went off to tackle the grade 3+/4+ top section of the Isel. The rest of the team then also divided into the minibus crew and the car crew (Alby, Ally, Rachel and Rik who will now be referred to as the dung beetles).

The all-caring-wonderful-loving minibus group went to the SPAR to purchase dinner, breakfast and lunch for the team. We collected all the items of food needed and had 2 big trolleys full when disaster struck! Alex, the minibus driver at the time, came running through SPAR defecating himself (rumour has it literally)...the BUS WAS GONE! The minibus angel team ran out of SPAR filled with panic, screams were heard "the club is going to be bankrupt"... "canoe club is over"... "oh no!" whilst the shocked SPAR staff screamed "this is the first ever robbery in Matrei!".

Right: Happy paddlers on the Isel





Joe B being the responsible man that he is immediately rang the police to report the tragic crime whilst collecting up his damsels in distress.

After many a worried moment awaiting the arrival of the police suddenly Jamie burst into a Usain Bolt/Rambo style sprint towards a distant car park across a large main road. With no clue as to where Jamie was running Aron followed suit with the minibus keys in hand. Magically the minibus was parked – fully locked, fully safe – in this distant car park. It was now apparent that the dung beetles had played a terrible, evil, stupid, silly, horrid, ridiculous, execution worthy prank on team wonderful minibus.

Aron in a desperate attempt to make the team still in the car park of SPAR aware of the atrocity that had occurred zoomed off in their direction. Turning into the car park Aron saw the police standing with Joe and overwhelmed with fury made the situation worse as he clipped the metal roof of the car park shelter with Eleris boat, contorting the steel and gouging

Left: Aron pre-rage

a groove in the Nomad plastic! Luckily no arrests were made and the police saw the comedy of the situation (which is more than could be said for team wonderful minibus).

After a western style shoot out between Joe and Aron in the car park they made their way back to the campsite. The rest of the evening was filled with anger and joviality but an excellent rack of BBQ ribs lead to everyone being happy by the end of the evening (except maybe the vegetarians...).

Now the dung beetles may think this horrible prank has passed punishment free but we shall see...

After an evening of chastisement of team fun the whole gang woke to a well rehearsed breakfast of bread, jam and chocolate spread.

A grade 2/3 section of the Isel was chosen as a club run and after some faff in finding the get in everyone put on. Grade 2/3 turned into flat moving water which few people

Right: Isel



Saturday 6 July 16



took enjoyment from, even Helen found it boring.

After lunch at the take out team awesome decided to drive up the Drau to complete one of the upper sections which started at St Jakobs whilst the rest of the group opted for a return to camp and a walk to a nearby derelict castle, with notable disregard for Sunday shopping or that evenings dinner(!).

The Drau crew put on to a fast flowing river and enjoyed grade 3 water until a blind bend. One by one the group ferried across to a large eddy on river right to inspect. One slip-up from Jamie lead to a mid river pin from which he was rescued by Reece with a quick throw line. Faff ensued as Mo's line became snagged and was eventually cut free. Patrick C and Joe F chase boat the MX a few hundred metres before catching it and noticing the large dent in the nose. Paddler and boat were reunited after an Excalibur moment as Patrick plucked the upright pinned paddles from the centre of the river.

Left: Team of hikers

The groups continued with Alby and Patrick S running the grade 4 section which Patrick C and Joe F chase boated the MX down blind. The rest of the run was a pleasant bumble and saw all paddlers back to camp by 6pm, just as all the shops in Matrei closed.

With no fresh food team cook created a lovely tomato and bean based meal whilst Jamie fruitlessly boiled kettle after kettle to try to pop the dent in the boat out. Star gazing and a late night game of contract wist saw everyone to sleep.

The day started with a gentle paddle down the Drau, from the Via Ferrata centre (which Tom, Rik and Reece explored) to the confluence with the Isel, with only a couple of silly swims from Helen and Sarah on the slalom course midway down.

With little food and a host of closed supermarkets team grump (aka class) opted for a pizzeria whilst team fast food headed to McDonalds. After posing in front of the party tram the fast fooders

Right: Patrick tackling the cliffs





sought out some deliciously greasy roadside rotisserie chicken for dinner later on.

After a quick return to the pizzeria only to be rejected by team grump (class) they returned for yet more chicken. Some of the group enjoyed Via Ferrata in the afternoon, climbing vertical cliffs with waterfalls. Others headed to the alpine coaster with the aim of destroying the sound barrier; a valiant 46km/h was achieved. When stationary children required us to perform an emergency stop Rik decided to barrel into the back of us.

An evening mission down the Upper section of the Isel gave Alby, Rik, Rob, Reece and Mo a last shot of adrenaline. After some continuous, medium volume steep creek rapids it was all too much for Rob who decided to walk out. As the river steepened further Rik had a swim and after kit was rescued decided he would hike the rest of the way too. The remaining 3 musketeers continued down to the get out without incident apart from a few rolls from Reece! After picking Rik

Left: The party tram!

up and finding Rob asleep on the side of the road Tom L picked up the 3 paddlers and we all returned to base camp to an inspired dinner of rice, satay sauce and Lienz's finest rotisserie chicken.

The day started with the usual faff (which it had now become customary to measure in "Macraes") – 3.2 Mcrs this morning – as we packed up camp and waited for washing up to be done. The convoy of vehicles then headed to the west of Austria destined for the legendary Imst gorge on the river Inn. Eventually we arrived at the get on where more faff took place (2.7 Mcrs) as we waited for the shuttle which had been stuck in traffic and detoured for McWifi to find out exam results.

After all the worldly thimbles had been hidden everyone was reunited and our journey down the voluminous Imst gorge began. Two heroic swims took place in the huge recirculating eddy above the large cushion wave above 'the wall' rapid (Alex H managed to self rescue

Right: The Imst Gorge





like a boss). At the take out Rob generously donated Euros to fund a round of Stiegels at the pub by the get out.

Suddenly clouds began to loom over the mountains before beginning to relieve themselves over us. In desperation we took rafting Eddie's advice and set up camp metres from our beer in the back garden. To shelter from the rapidly advancing clouds we headed into the conveniently attached restaurant where we enjoyed various Austrian delicacies and more Stiegel's whilst celebrating exam and degree results.

After an unsuccessful attempt to scale the nearby fake castle some wood was acquired and a campfire was lit. The remainder of the evening mainly consisted of debating a) who was most attracted to Reece's cousin and b) who had seen the removed internet video of her. This together with Patrick S' unsubtle comments resulted in a wrestling match between Reece and Patrick. After much hilarity the hugging competition was declared a draw and all retired to bed.

Left: The Inn

A great start, delicious pastry to begin. The calm swiftly ended and tension rose after a few hours in the bus as we searched for a decent river.

The initial plan was to conquer the Trisanna but upon inspection it appeared too shallow. This combined with the fragile state of Joe F's boat persuaded us to scrap that plan. We next headed to the Inn and everyone enjoyed a bumble down the grade 2 section above the Tozens section.

Eight keen beans carried on entering the grade 4 Tozens section which turned out to be an incredible run with some of the biggest waves Jamie, Reece and Tom W had ever experienced. During the first rapid Jamie dropped off what felt like the edge of the world into a huge hole and got munched but flushed and rolled up fine. As the group continued down they came across some of the most disgusting looking holes they had ever seen, with branches and rubbish recirculating in an intimidating way.

The bus and Patrick C's van had a

Right: The Inn





bit of a mission finding the take out but Katie Perry helped the paddlers kill time. The day was finished with a game of line of fire and a delicious but hot veggie Thai green curry.

We kicked off the morning with another luxury pastry selection in honour of Sarah's birthday. After packing up camp and presenting the birthday hat we were on our way to Zernez via SPAR for a thrift minded pre-Switzerland grocery shop.

A bemused scout camp welcomed us to the get on for the Susch section of the Inn. With minimal faff we got on and the section was conquered with minimal carnage neglecting a fool swim from Rik following a failed double bladed flat water roll for losing a river version of the popular word game bust-a-rhyme.

Following a brief shuttle break the bussers went camp site seeking leaving a brave crew of 8 (Patrick C, Joe F, Mo, Patrick S, Alby, Tom L, Reece and Rob) to continue onto

Left: Sarah and her birthday outfit

the grade 4+/5 Garsun gorge section. The section started off gently eliciting thoughts of “is this it?” from various members of the group. Once the river had narrowed into the gorge however we were quickly shut up.

Faced with this step up in difficulty Rob opted for a walk out. The remainder powered through conquering features the likes of which several are rarely seen on club trips. Dirty wave trains and multiple grim holes later 7 paddlers emerged victorious and somewhat knackered, greeted by a mischievous media group and too many flies. Back at the campsite the birthday celebrations swung into life and the night filled with win, Stroh and Austrian pine liquor.

Right: Deep in the mindspace





After a successful day yesterday Rachel realised her camera was MIA so set off with Mr Cott on a hunt for it...but not before a morning paddle down the S-Chanf gorge to the campsite. The gorge was a beautiful grade 3 run with overhanging cliffs and caves to explore.

The weather was once again stunning so unsurprisingly after paddling to the campsite for lunch only a handful of the most hardcore wanted to paddle the remainder of the section rather than bask in the sun! The river continued to be good read and run grade 3 to the get out (minus the heinous death weir which everyone portaged, Mo with some resentment).

Kayakers were reunited with sunbathers and a bus full of people drove to the lake in St Moritz for an afternoon rolling session/swim/conversation with Mo Farrah...wait who? Eleri who after 8 years out of a boat nailed a roll to a river worthy standard once again. Rachel and Ally returned to the campsite empty handed for dinner and Stroh. A vegetarian dinner of bean fajitas was enjoyed.

Left: Tom on S-Chanf

We woke to a dramatic temperature shift, the tent providing a morning sauna session once again. The inside of my sleeping bag probably has sweat stains that rival Bill's rash vest...well not quite, it doesn't have a 3 metre radius of doom smell.

Breakfast was marmite on croissant (for some) and a chocolate spread filled left over wrap from yesterdays glorious fajitas for others. The club had a lazy morning chilling in the sun until we eventually decided to go kayaking when Tom L returned with Alex R, our Viking friend has returned! Our last river section was the Schuls gorge on the Inn – another section of beautiful river but a bit more challenging than yesterdays gorgeous S-Chanf experience.

The river started with a very short grade 4 rapid – a first successful grade 4 decent from Sarah – a quick blood rush with no warm up which claimed swims from Rik and Marcus. After that wave trains and a few small holes lead us into the start of the second grade 4 section where Sarah had a swim after catching her edge. Luckily she only

Right: The lake at St Moritz





swam a few metres before a very large hole where Ally, Alex H and Jake all had a swim. Unfortunately around the corner was "the wall" rapid – a solid grade 4. The boats of all 3 swimmers were chase boated through by Tom L, both Patricks and Mo. With Reece manning the bank camera the rest went through the section which claimed rolls from Tom W, Jake and Marcus.

The section came to a gentle end after floating down to the take out on some flat water before the hydro dam. Another glorious cheese and sausage sandwich for lunch followed by a trip back to camp for a relaxed late afternoon for most while the hardcore went and tackled the Brail gorge – a great run down with some excellent heart racing grade 4 rapids at the start which lead to grade 3 water down to the get out. Rik cooked a 2 course meal comprising Gnocci fondue with pasta and veg which was devoured by all.

Left: Sarah

Saturday 13 July

After a beer free night (we forgot to stock up again) with Ralph filled with much ass-Schnapps and fire breathing Stroh the bus set off home at 10.30am as planned, as did Patrick C and Eleri. Since Rob and Marcus' boats were being driven back on the bus they decided to spend the day in St Moritz and Ally and Rik went on a mountain biking adventure.

The rest of the group put on at the camp site with cars packed and ready to go. Choc croissants were devoured after the shuttle returned for a quick pre-Austrian run of the Brail gorge. All went well down to the gorge mouth but soon Alby was pinned between 2 rocks, backwards in the flow and came out of his boat. After a quick rescue the group continued out of the gorge with little incident and made it to the take out at noon. We all surprised ourselves at how quick and faffless the morning was...we put it down to the lack of the bus and Macraes!

Rachel was already in Munich picking Adam up so the Swiss team elected to drive to Austria for a welcome run down the Imst gorge

Right: Alex and Tom





for Adam on his arrival at 5pm. We returned to the Haiming campsite after the short evening run down the gorge to hear that "Ally had had a fight with a train and lost...but is being patched up by a collection of babes in A&E". Slightly worried we awaited their arrival to find Ally in a sling and draped in bandages.

We set up camp and heard tales of woe as Ally and Rik described their hardcore day of mountain biking when the accident happened whilst enjoying pasta with a posh smoked salmon and cream sauce. This time we had remembered it was Sunday tomorrow and done a pre-emptive shop, mostly beer. A clear night huddled around crazy Eddie's fire pit was had.

Left: Run out of photos of the Inn

The second day of lean mean paddling machine action began with an impressive convoy directly to the get in for the Sill. Upon inspecting we decided the levels were a bit low and moved on to the Reutzbach.

After a swift restaurant Wifi visit to locate the get in and car park lunch we got on. The section was a pleasant technical bibble down the partially canalised river. On getting off by a small surf weir we expedited to the Melache.

The recommended full river inspection revealed an interesting looking run spoiled only by an array of unavoidable strainers. Abandoning this the group headed towards home for the night via the Lower Oetz for an evening home run. Team paddle Peru kicked off on the slalom course leading the rest down a fun length of high volume wavy hole aversion. Portaging the severe death weir on the left we floated down to the infamous Oetz cataract. Unfortunately with most of the group oblivious Ralph was the only paddler aware of what was in store. Adam diverted the carnage

Right: Mo on the Oetz





crew directly to the centre of the action punching through the first hole and just failing to catch the second for a surf. Alby had more success in that regard, so much so that Patrick S was distracted from the task in hand, also dazzled by the low evening light. He was dragged back into the first hole and munched by the second (upside down) and rollers Alex and Reece were presented with a swimming situation upon righting themselves. Paddles and "Fresher" rescued to the side after a heinous swim. The group chased after blue Daz retrieving him shortly after the confluence with the Inn.

A generous raft guide fetched stranded "Fresher" back to the campsite after an arduous walk along the river. Reunited all 8 partied round the campfire into the night.

Left: Ralph and Reece on the Oetz

After another joyful night at camp next to the motorway everyone got up with the sun.

The first river of the day was the Landeck Gorge, a big bouncy grade 4. We also looked at the gnarly Inn Schute but no one had sufficient confidence to paddle it due to some enormous holes.

After some uber faff involving Ally having his dressing replaced in a near-by clinic the Sanna was chosen for an evening blast. It turned out to be a nice relaxed paddle through a beautiful valley.

After kayaking the team retired to Oilers, an American diner for some Weiss beer and huge burgers. The evening involved much planning but no conclusions.

Right: What?





Everyone except Ally paddled the Lower Oetz in the morning – a great run down with no swims for Ralph’s last day.

We then drove up to the Venter Ache to have a look – the online guide promised low levels but on inspection it was clear that the electronic gauge was clearly out of calibration...it was stonking. After much deliberation we decided not to put on and as Ralph went home the rest of the group retired for ice cream.

We stayed in a campsite in Solden further up the Oetz valley which was a bit posh but the warm showers were worth it. A bouncy puppy woke us all up in the morning since most of us were sleeping under the stars.

Left: Tom on the slalom course

We were up and out of the campsite, with the help of our new friend, by 9am to head up to the Venter Ache again in hope slightly less water. The level hadn't changed significantly, it wasn't higher anyway, so a dream team of Adam, Alex, Tom L, Alby and Mo (in Rachel's boat) put on.

Patrick and Reece opted for a bank support roll and captured evidence of the descent whilst Ally and Rachel took off to explore the mountains around Solden by mountain bike (Ally with his paddling elbow pads this time).

The river proved to be a cracking run and a highlight of the trip – steep grade 3/4 read and run with some nice rapids to inspect. Tom and Alex made a last chance eddy above a blind canyon so Adam, Alby and Mo climbed the cliff to inspect from the road 100-200m above. The line looked fine from above with a few big boulders to avoid and a hench cushion wave to punch at the canyon's end. All made it through with a couple of rolls/head wet high braces but having not been able to inspect, Tom ended up being pushed around in the surprise tow

Right: Alex on the Venter Ache





back for some time.

The next rapid was upon us at which point Tom joined the media team and left the other 4 to continue down river. A perfect rendezvous at the ice cream restaurant next to the take out was made!

With only a few hours paddling time left the decision was made to inspect the Upper Venter Ache in hope that an expedition in the morning may be possible. We were met with views of a beautiful but inescapable gorge and decided to catch tiny frogs in a water logged field instead.

Ally and Rach found us flicking through the SPAR shelves in Solden and Alby was surprised to see Rachel wearing Ally's sling – a great joke...but actually no, another mountain biking accident to add to the list (a sprained wrist this time). We arrived at a lovely and cheap campsite in Winkel where we immediately erected a tarp and ate before the relentless rain began. Bed was sought.

Left: Adam on the Venter

We slept in Winkel campsite under tarp/in tent porches to shelter from the rain. Team internet left in search of the elusive world wide web in Solden at 10am returning an hour and a half later.

Those with "broken" arms returned to Solden to find a trail up the mountain (where they nearly got rescued by a police helicopter as the mountain became closed and were tempted by a grade 6 waterfall which landed on rocks) whilst the others drove to the Pitzbach. Much searching for the road resulted in an elite team deciding to put on at the town of Hairlich.

After a nice section of read and run grade 3 and some aesthetic boof drops we all decided to portage a questionable weir through someone's garden which definitely said access, particularly for kayakers, was allowed. A beautiful and inconsequential grade 4 gorge winded through a forest and claimed a roll from Reece. The river continued in grade 4 read and run style with team media (Patrick and Mo) giving emotional and logistic support from the bank. A relatively

Right: Tom on the Pitzbach





faffless portage around the first drop of the second gorge saw us rope boats down from the road.

Shortly after this Reece found himself surfing a small hole and the man that "never swims" pulled his deck in terror. A short swim ensued and after Alby had seen Reece and Adam apparently safe in the eddy Alex and Tom barrelled down to pick up the pieces. Reece walked out to the road to find the media team while the rest of the group scouted the rest of the gorge and ran some amazing grade 4+ rapids. After another read and run section the MX was spotted pinned in the river. Alby and Tom extracted the boat as the heavens opened and everyone decided to call it a day.

Rachel and Ally identified a great campsite which we retired to after sampling tasty food and Keisershmarrn in a small restaurant outside Nassereith. The tarp was erected and filled with bodies who enjoyed a good night's sleep (post a midnight dip in the swimming pool in Patrick's case).

Left: Boof drops on the Pitzbach

After such a successful day on the Pitzbach the group were intent on a return however perhaps not to repeat the same section again. With Rachel's wrist well enough to paddle a run down the Upper Pitzbach was decided.

The team put on in a small village in the hills where the river became navigable and enjoyed a scenic bimbble with mostly grade 2 water. A riverside road tunnel marked the only meaty rapid on the section – a continuous and steep 200m grade 4 rapid which was paddled blind by all but Patrick. The team got out at Hairlich, the put in for the previous day, and were met by team lunch bearing bread, cheese and tasty snacks.

Alex and Reece both decided they would paddle in the afternoon leaving Ally, Rachel and Alby to sun themselves by the pool in Nassereith (a campsite with a pool!). The others enjoyed a swift evening run of the Lower Oetz before catching some predinner McWifi. All returned for a dinner of turkey breast pastery goodness! Beer was imbibed.

Right: Patrick on the main event





A slow start to the final day meant the group was all packed up and ready to go by 10am. For the sake of leaving on time and reduced faff we decided to paddle something close to home and after seeing the brown water flowing down the Sanna and into the Inn in Landeck we opted for it!

The run was much the same as the first time despite the slightly higher water level so a fun bimbble down saw us get off at 1pm in time for lunch. Mo had conveniently forgotten to tell us it was his birthday today so a stealth crack team headed into town to find a suitably inappropriate card and cake. This was enjoyed but we left enough room to devour large ice cream sundaes in a local cafe before parting our ways for the journey home to the UK.

Mo took Adam home for a night of sweet loving whilst the other 2 cars set off for the long drive. Tom's car saw a Bugatti Veyron on fire on the motorway which excited us all and before we knew it we were at Dunkirk by 4am waiting for the first ferry. Back to London by 9am exhausted but buzzing after a wicked 3 weeks.

Left: Adam on the Sanna



Imperial College Caving Club



2013 Summer Tour
Slovenian Expedition
'Z Miga na Kuk'

Introduction

The 2013 'Z Miga Na Kuk' expedition was a highly successful 5-weeks of cave exploration on Migovec. Collectively JSPDT and ICCC cavers added another 1.8 km of new cave passage to System Migovec (already the longest cave in Slovenia) bringing the total to an impressive 27.3 km. The developments were all at depths greater than -500m relative to the entrance, explored on multi day camping trips based at 'X-Ray' our underground home each summer since 2010.

Aims

The major aim of the expedition is to enable our members to cave at a level (figuratively and literally) that is impossible in the UK. We aim to have cavers taking part in multi-day caving trips involving camping in the cave and exploring many hundreds of metres below the surface, The discovery of new cave passage, along the requisite skills such as rigging, bolting and surveying, is something that we attempt to get every caver on the expedition to experience.

Summary of Activity

Travel

18 cavers travelled out from the UK. Nine travelled with the equipment in a union minibus with the rest making their own way.



'Unpacking the van with Migovec in the background'

Setup

As usual setup began on Sunday morning. The van was driven up the winding road to Tolminski Ravne where, we were able to unload our many crates of food and equipment into a barn, generously given over to our use by a local family. The barn would serve as a store room for the next five weeks as we brought supplies up the mountain piecemeal as we needed them.

The Bivi, our camp and base of operations on the mountain, was already partially prepared for habitation by a small team that preceded the main expedition. The added presence of cavers, biscuits and tea completed its construction and so on Sunday night most people were able to sleep on the mountain.



'The bivi'

Aided by excellent weather (which would continue for nearly the entire expedition) and superb organisation the expedition managed to haul everything necessary for caving up the mountain within two days and by Wednesday the first teams were heading underground to explore and camp.

Caving

This year the major deep discoveries were found through the most unlikely of leads:



'Descending Milka Pitch'

Xanadu

Near the underground camp, a crawl through a muddy tube to a pitch that had thwarted exploration in 2012 (Euphrates), revealed over 500 meters of walkable phreatic (Cuckoo's Nest) as well as active canyon streamways.

The initial phreatic passage eventually leads to a junction, one direction leads into a canyon streamway, (Time Bandits), that leads to a 30 m high aven with no obvious continuation. This aven is only the source of half the water in the streamway, but the other inlet is too tight and immature to explore.

The other direction of the junction breaks into another canyon streamway. Following this upstream leads along rift (Rejuvenation Rift) until the source of the water disappears into cracks in the ceiling of a chamber. A crawl from this chamber leads to two very tight awkward squeezes that are left unpushed (Straight Jacket). Downstream also remains unpushed.

Another hole off the main phreatic passage was also pushed (Hydrophobia). Down a small climb immediately leads to a ~15 m pitch which joins a large rift with an active stream. Upstream very quickly becomes too tight to proceed. Downstream was pushed down a further pitch following the water. The water disappears into a large hole, this is left unpushed. Instead traversing across the hole eventually leads to a second dry hole, which was pushed till it died. Traversing across this second hole leads to a final large pitch which has been dropped to a ledge with the pitch continuing unexplored.

Balamory

Balamory, a minor lead at -795 m (last attempted in 2010), gave way via a climb to beautiful white sandy passage (Kokain Rute). One fork of Kokain Rute leads to a boulder blockage, similar to that at Minestrone; these two positions being only 20m apart on the survey it is assumed that they connect but digging either side would be arduous. The other fork of Kokain Rute leads to a massive (5 m wide x 40 m high) active rift & pitch series, leading eventually to two large parallel shafts. The smaller shaft was pushed to a multitude of horizontal leads (Pick Your Poison), most of which remain unexplored. This was the deepest point explored this summer (-885m).

Minestrone/Atlantis



'Insignificant leads in Minestrone, 810m below the surface'

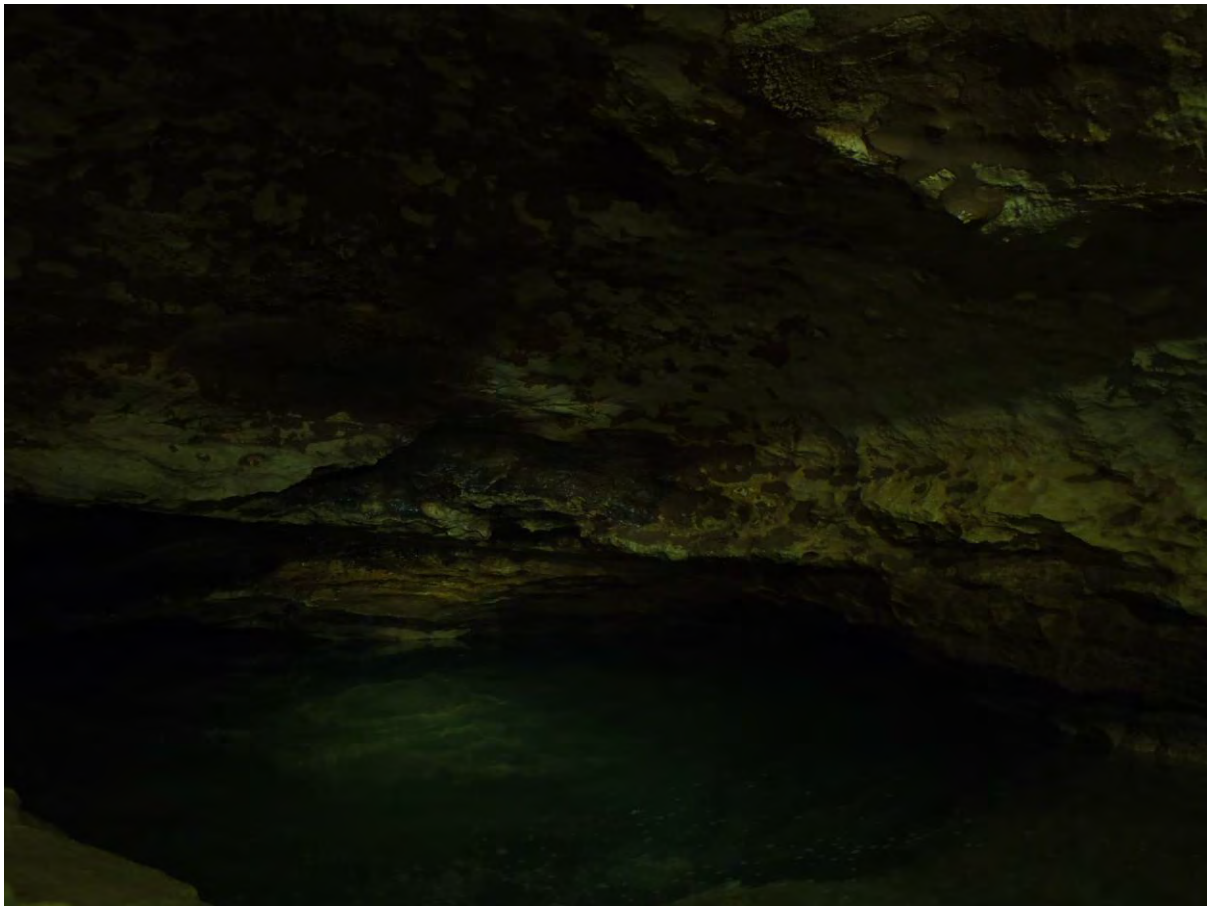
'Minestrone' was extensively pushed despite very little reward. However expeditions to this area of the cave did uncover something interesting. Some sort of small mammal was spotted, possibly a pine marten. The animal was briefly sighted by one team resting at a junction (Hawaii) and subsequent pushes found that their food stashes at the junction had been nibbled. At 500 m below the local surface and with a horizontal distance of a kilometer to the open air, the question of how the animal got there remains a mystery.

A rather insignificant lead (in size and prospect for further exploration) that received a lot of attention this year was 'Hash', an ascending body-sized crawling tube very close to 'Hawaii' in 'Lost Miles'. The crawl was pushed in three trips and ends in an unpalatable squeeze chicane.

Similar to Hash, 'We Are Not Alone' is a fairly obvious passage that was completely unnoticed last year. The spacious crawl leads off from Atlantis and eventually becomes a wide bedding plane. The way on was initially blocked by boulders but after some work by the pushing team there is just a single rock blocking the passage. It is advised that a chisel could be used as a lever to move this rock. Further back in We Are Not Alone there are markings on the wall that look like they could be scratch marks from a small animal, perhaps the same one as was seen in Hawaii.

Brezno Slapov

The large waterfall pitch at the end of Atlantis, Brezno Slapov, was dropped using a combination of rope and freeclimbs. Following the water and dropping a further pitch led to an active rift streamway, Lethe. This eventually ended in a sump after about 100 m with no dry way on. However, a secondary inlet was found just before the sump to the left. This led to a small chamber with a possible bolt climb, and a larger chamber further on with a wet aven. In the larger chamber it looked like there was possibly a drier bypass/continuation but this was left unpushed due to the wet conditions on the day.



'The sump at Lethe, 850m below the surface'

Invictus

The very strong draught felt all the way from Red Baron chamber appears to disappointingly go up the shaft at the end of Invictus. Bolt climbing does not seem possible due to the chossy nature of the rock. Dropping the pitch to the bottom of the shaft leads to an impassable crack in which the water pools (RCC Passage of the Year).

Yorkshire

Yorkshire was continued, following the streamway downstream. The pushed route through (Curious and Curiouser) makes use of two dry streamway bypasses, in order to avoid tiring thrutching high up in the rift. The rift however has not been followed completely so (while likely) it is not certain that these bypasses join with the same streamway. The second bypass leads to a topologically complex passage (Labryinth) with one poor quality lead left - a dodgy climb that requiring rope. The lead that was pushed was a climb down rejoining a streamway as it breaks into a large chamber (Slinging in the Rain). Two pitches in the chamber were dropped before leading to a perched sump. A bypass across the top of the last pitch leads down a sandy crawl that is eventually blocked by two large boulders that resisted attempts to move them. The passage can be seen continuing on the other side.

Undercover Squirrel

'Undercover Squirrel' was pushed ('Rural underground') but all leads were subsequently killed. A crawl off Hot Pants remains unpushed.

Monatip

ICCC members joined JSPDT teams pushing in Monatip (part of another 4km system also beneath the Migovec plateau). At their closest points, Monatip and System Migovec are now approx. 125m apart. It is hoped that the two will be connected within the year, solidifying System Migovec's position as the longest cave in Slovenia.

Surface Bashing

We also saw an enthusiastic continuation of last year's surface exploration with over 20 surface caves catalogued and pushed. Though most did not lead to significant discoveries one surface cave, named Jailbreak due to its entrance initially being blocked by a column of rock, was surveyed to a length of more than 100 metres (depth 30m) and contains a promising dig.



'Chamber in Jailbreak'

Derig

Excellent weather this year meant that the underground camp was very efficiently used. It is perhaps not obvious but good surface conditions mean that preparation and motivation for caving is far easier. As a result most people managed to have enough trips to satiate them a few days earlier than normal (many people had been on 4 3-day camping trips which is fairly unusual). The camp was therefore packed up early, with the last few teams taking less essential parts of the camp and the final team carrying several bags out.

Soča/Lower altitude acclimatization

Due to the efficient derig the expo was left with a few days spare at the bottom of the mountain. In order to effectively acclimatize to the lower altitudes of the Soča valley and eventually London an effort was made to relax by the banks of the local Soča river. To aid the teams recovery, an inflatable dinghy was used to enable a more aquatic form of relaxation. As a result of this we have had no cases of sub-optimal altitude lassitude.



'The Soča river'

Cave Radio

A digital cave radio system, borrowed from Cave Link (www.cavelink.com), was installed to send text messages from the surface to and from underground camp. The radio functioned correctly across the 500 metre vertical distance and allowed cavers to send their new findings, equipment requests and weather reports to and from the surface.

Summary

This expedition was very successful. We achieved our aims to introduce new members to alpine caving. Six new cavers came on expedition. Everyone got to experience caving in System Migovec. Four made it to underground camp and made new discoveries in the cave. Logistically we managed to feed and shelter 18 people for 5 weeks on top of (and in) a mountain on budget and with no shortages (other than a brief biscuit crisis). Caving was carried out continuously for 4 weeks, with all the necessary rope and metal work that had to be brought from the UK.

Our links with the JSPDT are stronger than ever and proved invaluable this year, helping us to conform with new stricter Slovene Government regulations concerning cave exploration. They also helped us acquire cheaper insurance, saving club members hundreds of pounds and considerable time. This was on top of their usual contributions to exploration, equipment and merriment.

Summary of Accounts

Outgoings	Amount
Food	£ 1,986.64
Camp Expenses (Bivi and Underground)	£ 639.03
Caving Equipment	£1,545.59
Minibus (Fuel, Ferry Cost, Hire Cost)	£2,286.71
Miscellaneous	£175.00
Total	£6,633.28

Income	Amount
RCC Funding	£1,314.69
Ghar Parau Foundation Grant	£600.00
Member's Contributions	£4,718.59
Total	£6,633.28

Exploration Society Summer Tour 2013 – Chamonix

Note: As this tour was only open to more experienced climbers, people paired up and were left to their own devices. There was no formal structure that all participants followed. The account given in this report will be similar but not the same for everybody.

Day 1-5:

The 18 hour coach journey which includes dragging all your equipment around London and Paris has taken place. The joys of the Swiss Border Force have gone by, luckily everyone on this tour was white with a British passport, there would probably have been some trouble otherwise. Arrival in the town of Chamonix is pleasant, a little mountain town with a free local bus service. Everyone stayed in the Argentiere campsite, where Julian the campground host, made everyone feel welcome with his free WiFi, warm refuge and extensive library.



Down Jackets and Davinci Code

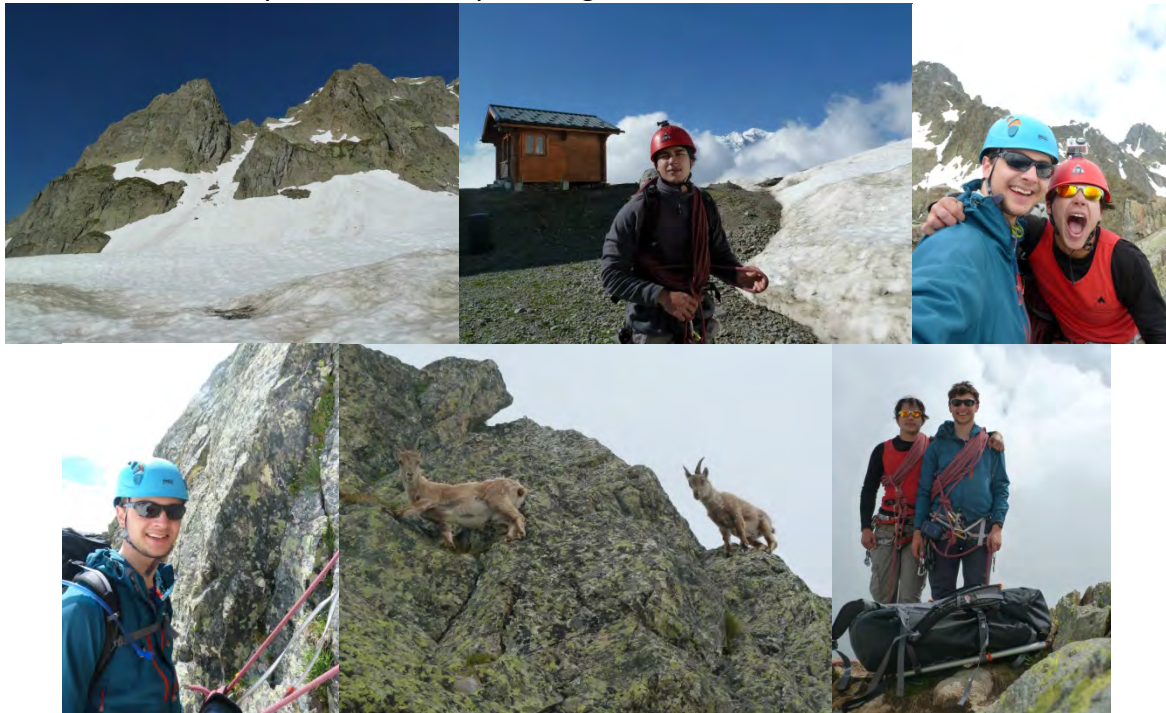
Two people on this tour also went on the Conville Course, which is an introduction to Alpine Mountaineering. This covers glacial travel, crevasse rescue, navigation, snow bollards, prussiking up a rope, routes/grades and dealing with French guides. It takes three days and weather providing goes up both sides of the valley.

The other day was spend waiting for partners arrival after the course, shopping, prepping for a route and waiting for good weather.

Day 6-9:

This was spent on the Aiguille Rouges side of Chamonix, with less snow and less altitude than the midi this acts as a good halfway stage to adjust and acclimatise. Joel and Will

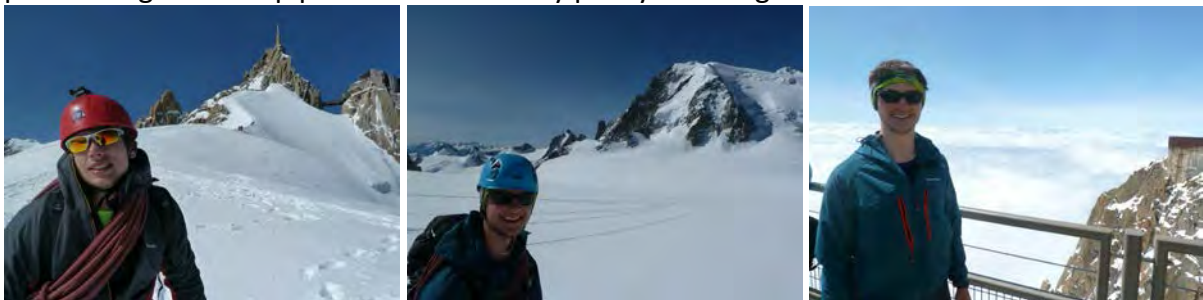
polished off the South East Ridge of the Index and the Lower Buttress of l'Gliere. Both really pleasant AD and D rock routes testing their ability to distinguish between brands of bolts from five metres away and their ability to dodge chamois.



The Index and the Gliere; Joel taking coils above the clouds; summit of the Index; a belay on the Gliere; Chamois above on the Gliere; summit of the Gliere with full cloud inversion

Day 10-12:

Time to go bust something out on the Aiguille du Midi side of the Chamonix. Will and Joel choose the super classic Cosmiques Arete and did it without much difficulty, for the most part managed to keep pace with some very pushy French guides.

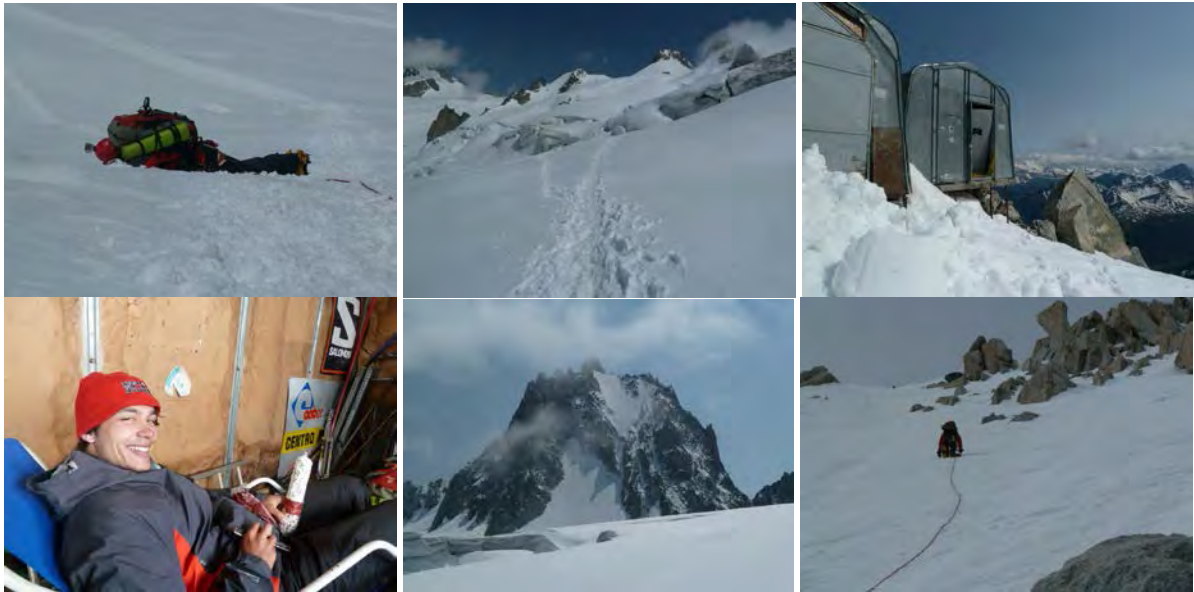


Hot Aches on the Midi Arete; the vallee blanche with Mont Blanc du tacul behind; Summit photo with full cloud inversion.

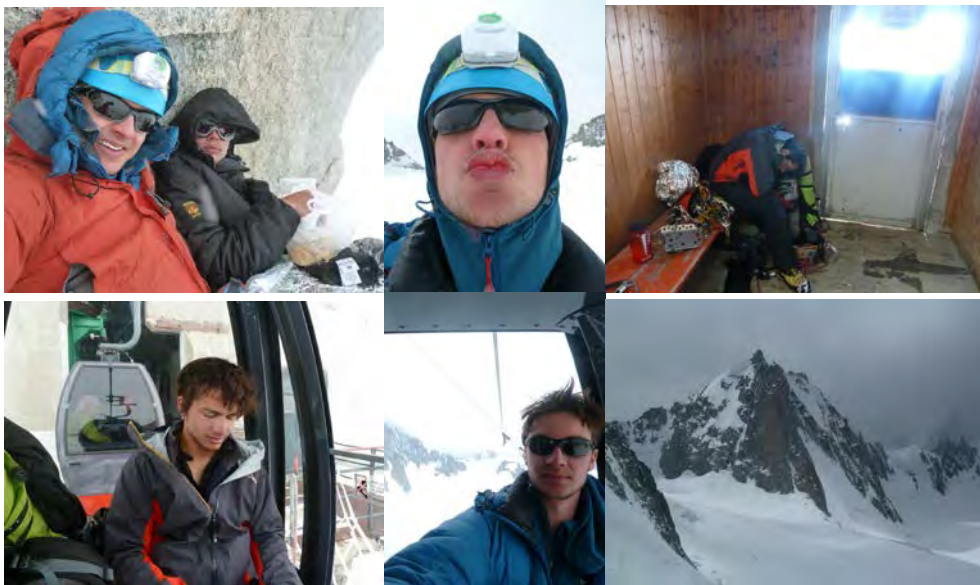
Then preparations began for something harder....

Day 13-14.5:

Joel and Will crossed the valley and onto the Italian side where they made camp in a little ski storage hut. Then early in the morning, really early, they walked to the base of the Tour Ronde and began their ascent of the North Face. The climbing wasn't particularly challenging but unfortunately the weather was very devious and the clouds came upon them 100m from the summit. This slowed them down and they made the summit by 11am, this is when the epic began.....



Cooling off on a glacier; crossing a crevasse; ski storage hut; dinner; the Tour Ronde; near the top
 Shelter was found and better conditions were waited for as it was impossible to navigate off. Several hours later there was a break in weather and the pair decided to try and get off the mountain while it was still daylight with reasonable visibility. The visibility was short lived and the pair were soon lost. Darkness was descended and after a quick (slow...more hot aches) reconnaissance danger ab they decided to settle down for the night. On the worst belay ledge in the world. When the morning came and the weather cleared they made the final 100m of their descent. Losing a bit of skin. They got the Hellbronner lift across the vallee and went straight into Chamonix for a burger.

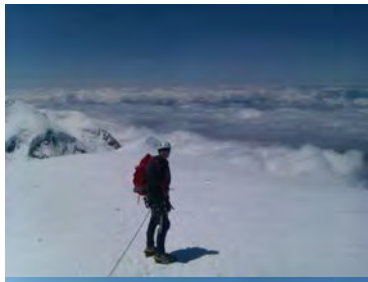


"shelter"; never put frozen nuts in your mouth; alive and at the hellbronner lift; broken man; broken man; la Tour Ronde with actual descent route in view

Day 14.5-16:

No more time for routes but much time required for recuperation and packing, then coach back to London. Via the lovely and not at all racist swiss border force.

Some Pics of Other teams:



Full List of Attendees:

Joel Braganza-Mendes
William Smith
Murray Cutforth
Ryan Perkins
Harriet Hilson

All full time IC students and members of Exploration Society. Teams were there between June 16th and July 7th.

Financial Breakdown:

Return coaches were £100, lift passes were 120+ euros depending on how many you got, camping was approximately 80 euros and the Conville course was £115. Food was left up to the individuals. The subsidy was ~£60 per person. So the full two week cost for someone on the Conville course was £300-£350.

Difficulties and Objectives:

There was only one difficulty and that was not being able to find the indoor facilities in Chamonix for when the weather is bad, fortunately this only happened once as the weather was usually cooperating on at least one side of the valley. Will and Joel suffered from some minor frost nip due to their epic both have since fully recovered.

The objectives were to go out and participate in some proper alpinism that is not available in the UK, all participants achieved this and lot of them climbed harder alpine routes than they had done prior to this trip.

Written by Joel Braganza-Mendes (Tour organiser)



Fellwanderers Summer Tour Report

We all converged on Luton Airport at 5 am for our flight out to Iceland. After checking everyone had brought all the food and tents that they had been given a few days previously (they had, apart from a couple of tins of sweet corn) we checked in and sat down for our last English breakfast for 10 days. Charlie finally turned up 15 minutes before the flight left, apparently TFL whimsically decided to cancel all his buses.

The 3 hour flight went quickly and soon we had beautiful views of a glacier and the rugged volcanic coastline of Iceland. After passing through passport and customs without an incident we got the bus into the Capital, Reykjavik, checked into the hostel and went about exploring the city. We soon found the cheapest supermarket, Bonus, and in the evening the 12 of us sat down for a hearty dinner to prepare us for the week ahead.

The next morning we woke up early to get the 8am bus to Landmannalaugar where the start of the trail was. The bus's tour guide told us we were traveling through the epicentre of an earthquake and the reason why there are so many horses in Iceland: "The land is so cheap you can buy a horse, if you have one horse why not 2, and if you have two why not twenty!"

As we drove deeper into Iceland we went offroad onto the F roads, soon seeing a police super jeep and a group of people raking the side of hill! Several river crossings later we arrived at the collection of huts at Landmannalaugar. We however were camping, and due to the rocky ground we debated the merits of using pegs or rocks to secure the tents down – exciting stuff! After having lunch we headed off on a day walk up the surrounds hills to stretch our leg, and enjoyed a view of the solid lava flows beneath us. The evening was spent relaxing in the warm natural geothermal pool next to the campsite.

Over the next four days we walked as planned from Landmannalaugar to Baser. On the first day on the trail we walked through the lava field and then up and higher. We got our first experience of walking on the fragile Icelandic landscape, where a footstep on moss can easily kill it, and many photos of the plumes of sulphuric gas rising from the ground. The next day saw us climbing over the snowing pass and down to Álftinnusker. There was a democratic munity at the campsite, led by Sally, Sarah and Katharina with the group deciding that they would rather stay in the hut away from the biting wind and cold than camp. After being told by the hut warden that we weren't allowed up any mountains due to the closing storm Charlie and I settled for a brisk run around a nearby lake before too staying in the warm hut. The next two days saw us walking downhill towards Básar. Here the scenery became less snowy and turning into a black desert. We had to wade several rivers, only knee deep but very cold, creating a lot of faff as people removed their boots to cross. Approaching Baser we walked through the area known as "Almenningar" with crossing the river Þröngá which is glacier-fed but which is widely braided at the crossing point and only knee-deep max. The landscape and vegetation changed rapidly during this section—Birchwood and all kinds of plants emerged, a welcome change to the desert behind us. We met up with Joe, who came bearing gifts of chocolate, cheese and chorizo to liven up our diet.

The next day was a relaxing rest day for those weary from being on their feet all day and enjoyed the bathing pools near the hut and the warming hot chocolate. Meanwhile some of us walked up an

exceptionally pointy mountain – walking the furthest and highest we had all trip but thankfully without our heavy rucksacks. The summit had a great view, about 2 meters. Our 6th and final day of walking started early with us climbing over 1000m passing between the glaciers "Eyjafjallajökull" and "Mýrdalsjökull" and climbing Iceland's newest hills "Magni" and "Modi". On the way down we passed 23 waterfalls as we approached the finish of the trail at Skogar.

After travelling back to Reykjavik we spent the following day driving around the Golden Circle route seeing the mid-Atlantic ridge in Þingvellir and the Gullfoss waterfall, thanks to our three drivers Sally, Jessi and Joe.

Our final day was spent relaxing in Reykjavik before getting the flight back to England. Many thanks to everyone who came along and I am sure everyone will agree it was an amazing experience

Fellwanderers Summer Tour Finance Report

General

This tour report is for the summer tour by the Fellwanderers to Iceland. The tour aims to walk the Landmannalaugar trail was completed as expected

Attendance

Attendance was as expected, 12 Fellwanderers for the whole tour and 1 Fellwanderer for the second half.

Jack Redvers Harris
Sally Scourfield
James Derrick
Sarah Martin
Charlie Penny
Jessica Wunder
Heather Jeffery
Sam Kirby
Katharina Reeh
Terrence Lai
Maren Strobl
Mathew Jesse
Joe Rumer

Accounts

Income

Description	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Variance	Notes
Tour Funding	£0.00	£1,437.63	£1,437.63	Note 1
Tour Contribution (Jack, Charlie, Terrence, Katharina, Sally, Sarah, James)	£3220	£906.5		Note 2

Tour Contribution (Heather, Sam, Jessica, Maren, Mathew) Part II	£2300	£570		Note 3
Tour Contribution (Joe) Part III	£460	£0.00		Note 4
Total	£350.00	£2,305.31	£1,955.31	

Travel Expenditure

Description	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Variance	Notes
Bus Pass from Reykjavik to Landmannalauger and back from Skogar	£765.44	£765.44	£0.00	Note 6
Bus Travel between airport and Reykjavik	£257.66	£198.47	-£232.27 (F)	Note 7
Bus Ticket to Esja	£364.00	£0.00	£	Note 8
Return ticket to Pingvellir	£364.00	£0.00		Note 8
Car Hire	£0.00	£289.61		Note 8
Total				

Accommodation and Food Expenditure

Description	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Variance	Notes
Youth Hostel	£260.00	£251.38		Note 9
Camping	£390	£669.79		Note 10
Hut	£0.00	£284.45		Note 10
Food	£1040.00	£296.98		Note 11
Fuel	£21.00	£6.25		Note 12
Total	£888.00	£517.89	-£370.11 (F)	

Other Expenditure

Description	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Variance	Notes
Map	£0.00	£39.37		Note 13
Fuel Bottle & Caps	£0.00	£55.85		Note 14
Guide Book	£0.00	£12.88		Note 13
Exchange rate cost	£0.00	£21.23		Note 15
Total	£120.00	£118.37	-£1.63 (F)	

Description	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Variance	Notes
Profit	-£2,458.00	-£91.62	-£2366.38 (F)	

Travel Expenditure Paid Individually by Trip Members

Description	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Variance	Notes
Flights Return (London to Keflavik)	£2,469.87	£2,713.53	£243.66 (F)	Note 5

Bus Pass from Reykjavik to thorsmork and back from Skogar	£0.00	£63.96	£63.96	
Bus Travel between airport and Reykjavik (Joseph R)	£0.00	£20.51	£20.51	
Bus Travel between airport and Reykjavik (Jessica W, Maren S)	£0.00	£19.29	£19.29	
Exchange rate cost	£0.00	£12.88		
Total	£0.00	£21.23		
	£120.00	£118.37	-£1.63 (F)	

i. Financial Breakdown

Flights:

Outbound: Wednesday 17th July

£60.69 London 07:25 --> 11:00 Madrid

Return: Wednesday 24th July

£33.29 Madrid 21:50 --> 23:10 London

Combined Price: £93.98

Coach:

Madrid->Valencia on 17th

Valencia->Madrid on 24th

Journey time was about 5-6 hours.

Combined Price: £45.27

Hotel:

Hotel Beleret

TripAdvisor: <http://goo.gl/JKzQJ>

Booking.com: <http://goo.gl/AmYU7>

Total Price for week per person: £100

Tournament/Venue Entry:

<http://www.dreamhack.es/en/entradas/>

£15 per person

Price per Person Total: £254.25

ii. Day-By-Day Account

Wednesday 17th: Most of the day was spent travelling. When we got to our hotel in Valencia it was about midnight, so all we could do was find somewhere to eat and go to sleep.

Thursday 18th: We went to Dreamhack. The tournament didn't start until Friday, but we had access to the player's lounge and spent the day practicing on the computers there and discussing the game with players from around the world. We spent pretty much the entire day at the venue, just leaving to eat nearby.

Friday 19th: The actual competition began. We had to be there early (about 9am) to start competing in the first round. In addition to competing and practicing, we also watched many top pro-gamers play in person which was an extremely interesting experience, we also watched some matches being played and casted on the main stage.

Saturday 20th: Again we had to go in early. We were all knocked out fairly early on Saturday. We spent the entire day again at the venue, watching the rest of the tournament on the big stage amongst the crowd. The grand finals did not end until about 1:30am.

Monday 21st: Most of us woke up fairly late (~1pm) due to waking up so early and staying up so late because of the rigorous tournament schedule. We had a mini in-house tournament throughout the day, again practicing and trying to execute what we had learned

over the course of the tournament, both from our playing experience and watching pro-gamers play.

Tuesday 22nd: We went to a beach in Valencia as well as an Aquarium. When we got back we had an early night because of having to wake up early the next day.

Wednesday 23rd: In order to catch our flight we had to wake up and leave early. The entire day was spent travelling; we got back in England at just past midnight local time.

iii. Member Numbers:

8 Full-Members

5 Non-Full-Members

iv. Dates

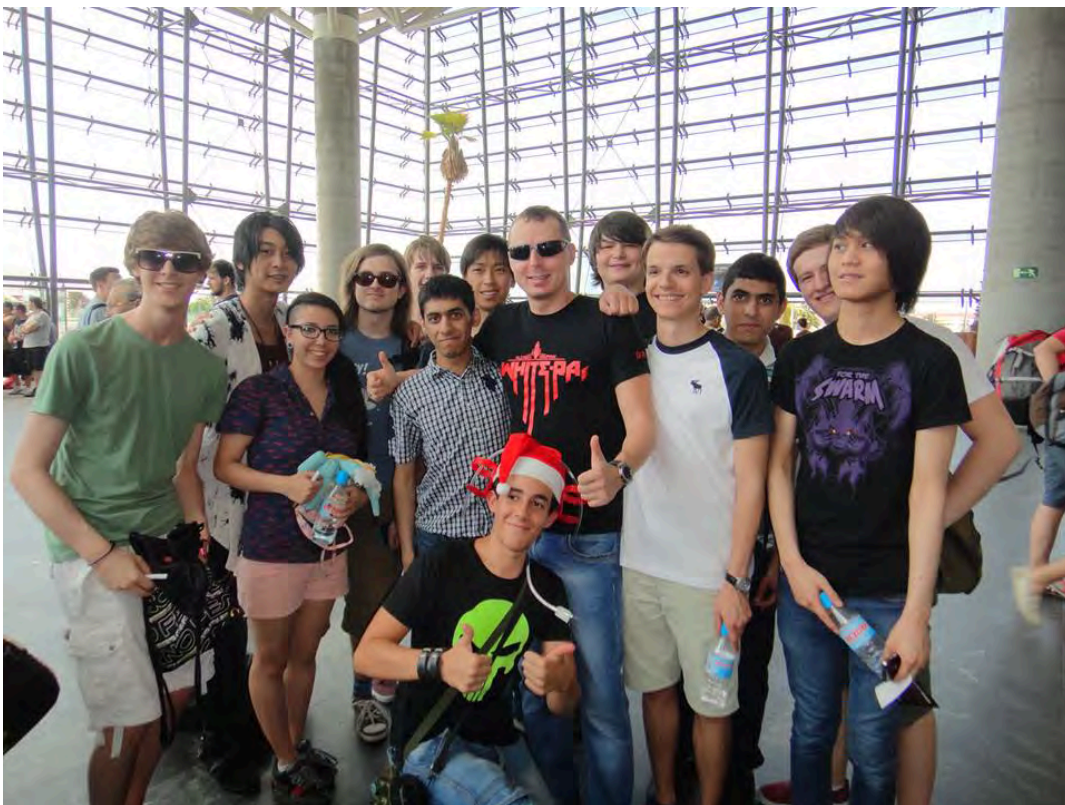
Wednesday 17th July – 24th July

There were no changes to the proposed aims and activities, the tour achieved them, and no issues arose whilst on the tour.

v. Photos



Most of us with professional commentator Shaun 'Apollo' Clark

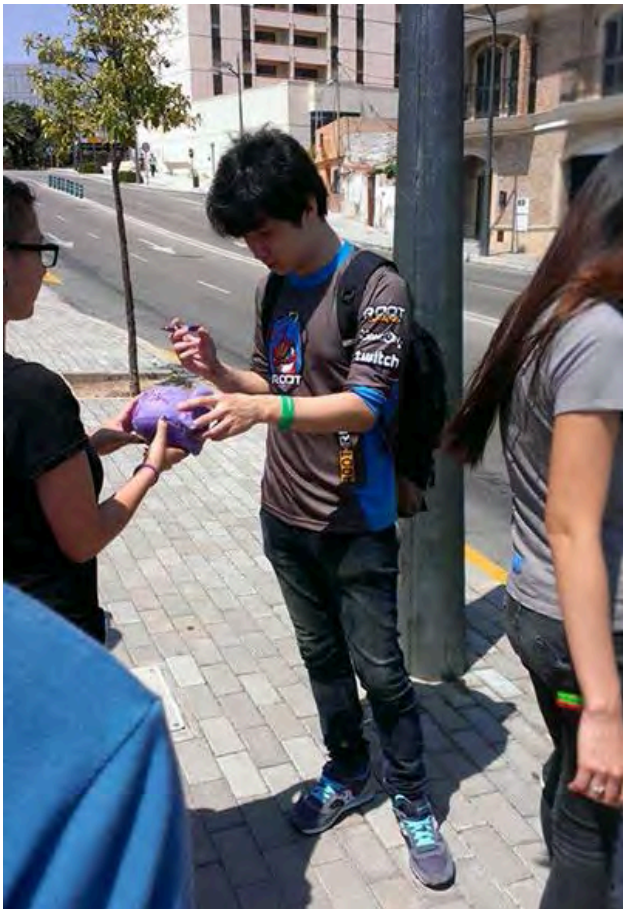


Most of us with professional player Aleksey 'White-Ra' Krupnyk





Pictures of us competing



Professional Korean player on 'Root Gaming' Jung Seung II signing for us, we caught him on the way to lunch outside away from the crowds!



Us at the front of the crowd as the grand finals is about to start.

ICMC Summer Tour Report 2013

Objectives:

- For everyone to enjoy 2 weeks of sport climbing in the sun!
- For members to improve their sport climbing ability.
- To experience and take advantage of a much better standard of sport climbing than is available in the UK.

There is no doubt that the tour fulfilled its objectives. Everyone had a great time, the quality of sport climbing was excellent, and many people boosted their sport climbing grade by a substantial amount; Sam and Milan boosted their grades from 6a+ to 6c and I went from climbing 6c+ to 7b.

Attendees:

1. Will Macleod
2. Andrew Wilkins
3. Hamzah Shami
4. Antje Lenhart
5. Jakov Marelic
6. Cheehan Weeraratne
7. Dak Scott
8. Michael Chan
9. Rosanna Nichols
10. Sam Cockman
11. Milan Thakore
12. Jack Beanland
13. Amar Nanda
14. Will Smith
15. Charlie Penny

Friday, September 6th

The first seven of us took our flight in today. Hamzah reinforced his position of club chopper by trying to bring the most lethal looking ice screw I've ever seen onto the plane. The security were nice enough not to arrest him, but he did lose his ice-screw-dagger. We arrived in Reus at around 8pm and from there took a taxi straight to the campsite in Siurana. We were immediately greeted by the campsite owners who were really friendly, and kept the kitchen open late to get us all fed! After choosing our rooms in the campsite cabins and moving all our stuff in, we went to bed setting an alarm for an early start tomorrow.



"Choosing rooms"

Saturday, September 7th

A thunderstorm looming overhead prevented people from doing much climbing in the morning... off to a good start! Andy and I (Will) set off hitch-hiking to the nearby town Cornudella, to buy food supplies for the next few days. Other than getting hopelessly lost and accidentally hitch-hiking to a huge dam this was successful. Meanwhile the rest of the group spent the day slacklining and meeting other climbers on the campsite. Hannes – one guy we met – was kind enough to drive some of us to a crag later on in the day when it had dried out. Cheehan, Dak and Rosanna arrived today!



"Hamzah showing off his slacklining skills"

Sunday, September 8th

We are all up early to head to a nearby crag – Can Marges - which has a range of easy and hard routes for the day. Everyone gets a good few climbs in. At midday it gets really hot so we have a break, and after another thunderstorm at 5 we head back. This was our first real go on Spanish rock as a group, and everyone finds the climbs hard. This rock will take some getting used to!



Monday, September 9th

The bulk of the group headed to Can Parazit to climb in the morning. We were lucky to have Hannes to drive some of us into town for food shopping! Everyone regroups at the campsite at 4 and then heads back out to Can Parazit. Some of us take fall practice to get confidence sport climbing and some hard routes are attempted until it gets dark.



Tuesday, September 10th

Up super early. Scrambled eggs. The majority of people leave to Can Parazit again as it was popular yesterday. Me Amar Michael and Hannes drive to Arboli, a beautiful crag just out of walking distance. We climb a variety of routes ranging from 6a to 7b+. We had something loosely resembling Piella for tea, took advantage of the unpolluted sky stargazing, then all retreated to bed!



“Hannes finding a no-hands rest on his 7b+”



“Me on a scarily run-out 6b+”

Wednesday, September 11th

We spent the day at Grau del Masetes. There was a nice section of wall with a range of easier routes that became the social hub of the crag. Lunch was Local baguettes with a monstrous portion of nutella. Michael won chopper of the day award by trying to climb one face of a chimney problem making it magnitudes harder, and benighting a small group of us by getting a rope stuck at the top of a route!



“Michael trying his 6a/8a chimney”



“... benighted!”

Thursday, September 12th

We went to Grau del Masetes again. A portion of the day was spent trying a 6a and 6a+ overhang at the 'social hub' of the crag. We also spent a long time all trying a classic 6b nearby, with Michael taking photos from a rope he had set up next to the route.



"Hamzah spectating the 6b climb"



"Amar attempting the 6b climb"

Friday, September 13th

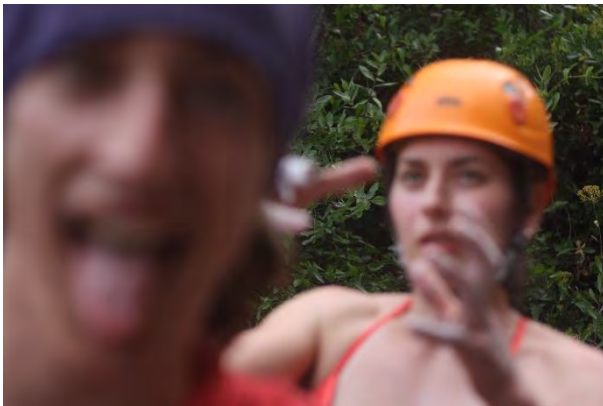
Rest day today! Much slacklining was done! A number of people visited Siurana village during the day. Charlie, Sam, Will Smith, Milan and Jack arrived later today. Amar had to go back, and the campsite owners were kind enough to offer to drive him all the way to Reus themselves! (A two hour round trip)



"Hamzah displaying some actual skill on a slackline"

Saturday, September 14th

After a morning excursion through a small jungle to a crag we wrongly thought would be big enough for all of us, we headed to Can Melafots. This is the famous crag at Siurana, and with good reason! It consists of a long stretch of amazing overhanging red rock, overlooking a beautiful view of the lake nearby. It was obvious this crag would be visited many more times this trip!



...I have no words for this



“Jack on ‘pizza de pinya’ 7a”

Sunday, September 15th

Due to a number of complaints about it being too hot, some people went to a shaded crag, Reserva India. The rest of the group headed to Can Melafots again.



“Jakov and Cheehan enjoying the Spanish rock”



“Will at Can Melafots”

Monday, September 16th

We spent the day at Grau del Masetes, to show the new-comers the crag. A number of people had a go at a short 7a+ with a really hard boulder move at the top. Only Jack got it! Since everyone feels pretty spent we decided upon a rest day tomorrow. This is great news because it allows us to indulge in all the Spanish wine we can get our hands on with no fear of climbing hung-over!



“Will and Sam looking fabulous”



“Milan giving the 7a+ a go!”

Tuesday September 17th

Finally a full rest-day! Everyone had a big lie-in and then we trekked down to the lake for some swimming. A herd of goats pestered us when we were all sitting by the lake. From the lake we headed to Town to buy food and have a few drinks.



“Will failing to swim”



Wednesday September 18th

Me, Antje, Will Smith, Charlie, Milan, Jack and Jakov left early to go to the crag El Detot. The rest were chilling out or climbing at Can Melafots. Michael got his 7c project, and I got a 7a I had been trying.



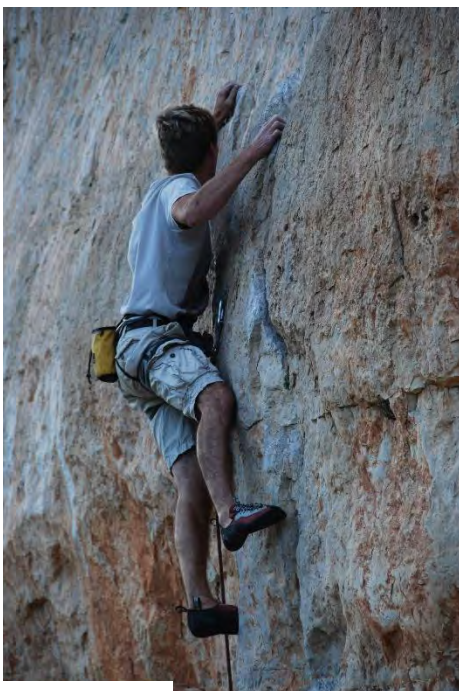
“Milan at El Detot”



“Me at El Detot”

Thursday September 19th

Today is the last day of real climbing! Everyone with projects they want to do has to get the today! Me and Michael had a 7b and 7c+ project at Can Melafots to finish. I got the 7b and was given a gummy-bear as a reward. We all drank a lot with dinner and for some reason had a food-fight with spaghetti...



“Me on Hostia 7b”



“A nice view of us on Melafots”

Friday September 20th

We got the campsite owners to order us a taxi for 3:30. The morning was spent packing and clearing up the huts, primarily removing spaghetti from the walls. We had quite a large amount of euros left over so thought we would splash out on a nice meal for lunch! We went to a pizzeria in Siurana Village with Hannes before saying bye and heading off!



Financial Breakdown:

Everyone bought their own flights, roughly £130 each.

I calculated how much everyone would need to pay me for accommodation, food and taxi, and I paid for everything in cash when we were there.

Member	Duration	Food cost (£)	Accommodation cost (£)	Taxi (£)	Total paid (£)
Amar	6th-13th	35	87.6	25	147.6
Milkins	6th-20th	70	173	25	268
Charlie	13th-20th	35	85.5	25	145.5
Cheehan	7th-20th	65	159.5	25	249.5
Dak	7th-20th	65	159.5	25	249.5
Hamzah	6th-20th	70	173	25	268
Jack	13th-20th	35	85.5	25	145.5
Jakov	6th-20th	70	173	25	268
Antje	6th-20th	70	173	25	268
Michael	6th-20th	70	173	25	268
Milan	13th-20th	35	85.5	25	145.5
Rosanna	7th-20th	65	159.5	25	249.5
Sam	13th-20th	35	85.5	25	145.5
Will M	6th-20th	70	173	25	268
Will S	13th-20th	35	85.5	25	145.5

Total cost of renting accommodation: £2031.6

Total cost food: £825

Total cost for taxis: £375

RCC Underwater Summer Tour to Korcula, Croatia, 22-29/09/2013

5 full ICUC members headed to the island of Korcula for a week of diving in the warm, clear waters of the Adriatic Sea.

Tour Finances

Individual member's costs varied due to number of dives and equipment hired. The minimum and maximum have been listed below.

Flights (easyjet Gatwick - Dubrovnik) : £290.46 before subsidy, £191.41 with 34.1% subsidy rate

Transfers : £17.52

Accommodation : £77.53

Insurance (including diving to 40m) : £26.27

Diving: Max £233.16, Min £203.78

Equipment hire: Max £82.50, Min £27.50

Activities

We had 6 full days on the island and the main activity was diving.

On the first 5 days the dive boat went out morning and afternoon, and on the Tuesday and Thursday we went out for a night dive as well! Due to sinus problems and tiredness, not everyone went on all the dives, so the number of dives ranged from 9-12 per person.

On the 6th day no diving occurred, since our flight was early the following morning and a 24 hour surface interval was being observed.

Objectives

The aims of the tour are outlined below:

We plan to take our summer tour overseas to Croatia, where we will be able to dive both wrecks and reefs. This location means that we will be able to further our diving experiences, by visiting sites that are new to the club and by diving in different conditions to usual. By going to the Adriatic, we are able to dive warmer water, which is more accessible to newer members than diving in the UK, since less specialist equipment, such as a drysuit, is required. The particular location has been chosen so as to be suitable for both new and more experienced divers.

The objectives of the tour were met and exceeded. The divers ranged in ability from newly qualified Sports Divers to experienced Dive Leaders, and the dives chosen to reflect this. All Sports Divers were able to extend their depths to 35m and two were able to experience their first wreck dives. Night dives were another new experience for many.

Issues

The trip was incident free.

Report

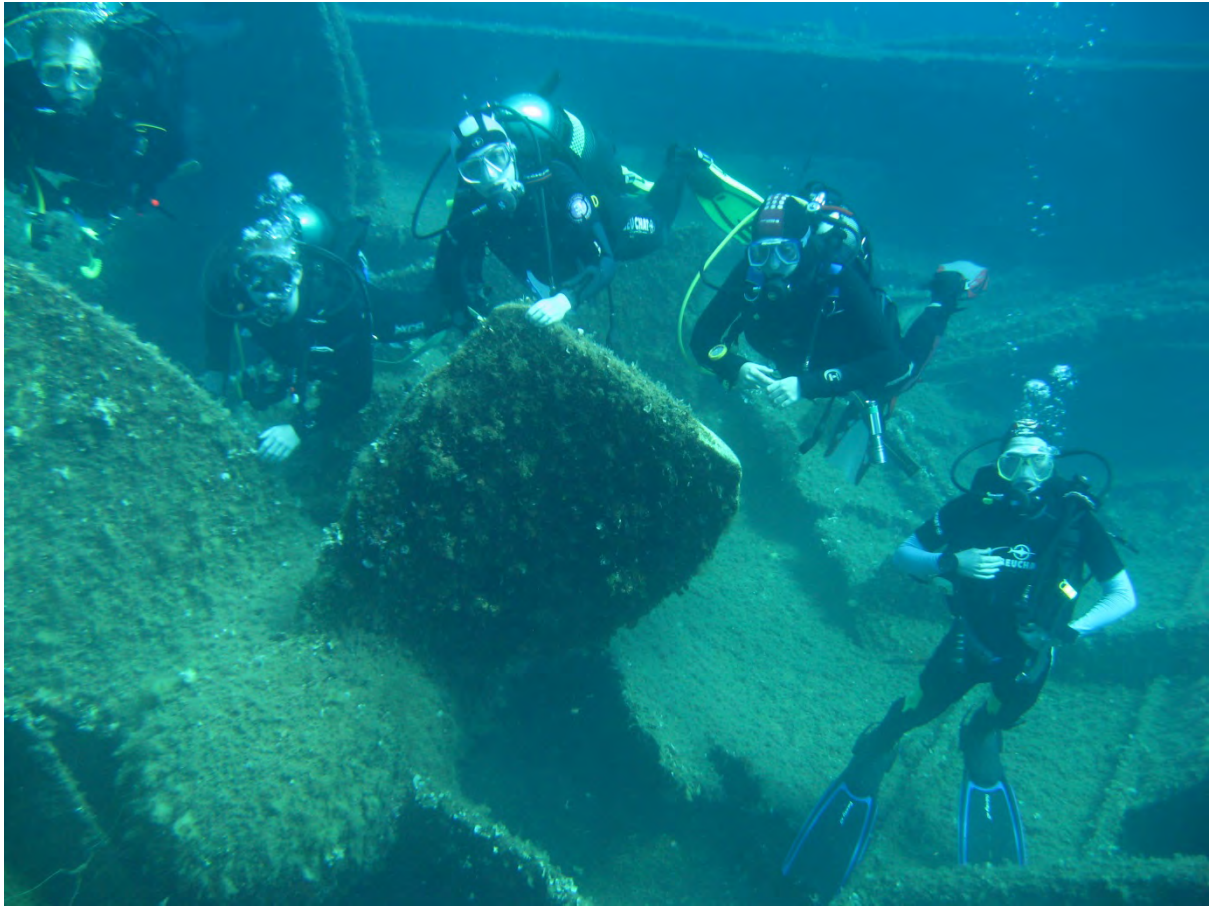
At 10 AM on a Sunday morning in Dubrovnik, 5 ICUC divers emerged blinking from the luggage hall and out into the bright Croatian sun. A 2.5 hour nap on the minibus later we found ourselves on a ferry to the island of Korcula, our home and dive-base for the week.

On arrival at the house we were treated to what would be one of the more amusing kit faffs of the week, with one member deciding that a living room in Croatia was the ideal place to attempt to reconfigure their wing from twin to single cylinders, during which it became apparent that some speedy packing had resulted in certain items such as a second stage being omitted from said member's kit bag. After further kit faff, much food, and the first of many delicious 80p ice creams we all took an early night in preparation for the weeks' diving.

The next five days were spent diving, eating, diving and sleeping. We were diving off a RIB with the Dupin Dive Centre, situated in a bay on the edge of Korcula town. Star divers of the week Laurie and Alex (aka Sea-man) made it out on the boat 12 times, with two night dives included, with everyone else making at least one night-dive and a selection of walls, reefs, caverns and wrecks during the rest of the week.

There were a variety of dive sites, with Raznic, a 30m wall studded with orange fan coral, and the Boca, a 100m freighter sunk in 11m of water, being particular favourites. Aside from the stunning underwater scenery, we were treated to a wide display of wildlife, including octopus, fireworms, cuttlefish, baby cuttlefish, spiny lobsters, locust lobsters, moray eels, and some huge shoals of fish. Visibility for the week topped 20m meaning we could see the sites in all their glory, and water temperatures rarely dropped below the 20s, making a nice contrast for those who hadn't dived since the cold Cornish waters of Easter trip.

A hugely successful and enjoyable week was had by all, with new skills acquired ranging from diving related, to cost-effective ordering of ice-cream, to origami. Thanks go to Steve and Jan at the Dupin Dive Centre for both their patience and some excellent diving!



1 Group Photo (minus Andreas) on the Boca



2 Another group photo (minus Andreas) on the boat



3 The over-water scenery wasn't bad either

Bo' goes coast to coast

This year Team Bo' decided to visit the North of the country in order to explore Lake District and Yorkshire. The Tour has been planned carefully by Mazda. After discussing with regular members of the Club it has been decided that the period between Saturday the 3rd and Sunday the 11th of August 2013 would be the best compromise. Sadly, James H could not make it due to other commitments, resulting in only four current Members participating. Over the course of the Tour, however, we have been joined by one ex-member; we have also met two past Bo' Drivers, Bob and Rob.

The idea behind the Tour was to drive the full distance in Bo', having broken down the route into several parts roughly 30 - 40 miles each that would be covered each day. Since the start and finish points of the route were some 300 miles away from London, it was necessary to tow Bo' there on his trailer rather than drive him all the way – keeping in mind the 60 miles of annual Brighton Run that Bo' participates in take up an entire day!

Once arrived, Bo' was to be driven at his own pace, with the minibus covering the same route and available in case any of the more specific tools outside Bo's on-board toolbox were needed. We had two minibus drivers – James F and Mazda. Sadly, Matt (following year's Bo' Driver) did not pass his car licence test in time for the Tour, resulting in Mazda being the only person allowed to drive Bo'. It would have been extremely unfair to have Mazda covering the whole route in Bo' and James driving the minibus throughout the Tour, so it has been decided to tow and unload Bo' roughly half way of each day's sub-route, drive him half of the distance, turn back and load back on the trailer having headed back to the minibus which would have been left behind with everyone riding in Bo'. The obvious disadvantage of this strategy was the problem of getting back to the minibus should Bo' need its assistance – this limited the operating radius of Bo' to several miles only, so that walking back to the minibus would always be an option, if absolutely necessary – although one person could have been carried on Derrick too, as he has been taken along the Tour and followed Bo' on several days. This was less than ideal, but overall the whole Tour has been enjoyed thoroughly by each Member and driving the 1902 James & Browne around the stunning scenery of small countryside roads was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that is certainly to be remembered for a long time.

Purpose of the Tour as entered on eActivities

This Summer Team Bo' plan to go from coast to coast from the Lake District to Yorkshire and visit amongst other destinations Driffield Steam Rally. This involves driving hiring a 9-seater minibus with a Tow Bar (for the trailer and Bo') for the time we're away. Some nights we will be staying with friends of the club but other nights we will be camping.

Itinerary

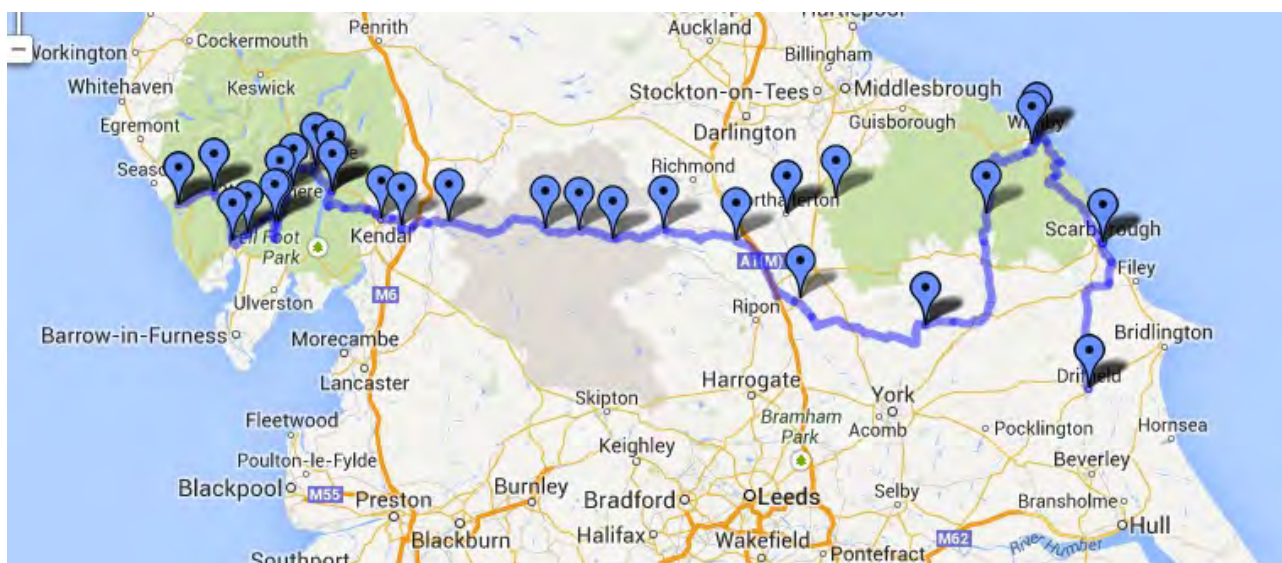
Day	Activity	Distance (miles)	Place of stay
Sat 03/08	Trailer Bo' up to Ravenglass		Shepards Views campsite
Sun 04/08	Drive from Ravenglass to Coniston	32	YHA Coniston Holly How
Mon 05/08	Drive from Coniston to Kendal	22	Kendal Hostel
Tue 06/08	Drive from Kendal to Leyburn	43	Craken House Caravan Site
Wed 07/08	Drive from Leyburn to Terrington	48	Terrington
Thur 08/08	Drive from Terrington to Whitby	43	Whitby Backpackers Hostel
Fri 09/08	Drive from Whitby to Driffield	47	Camp at steam rally
Sat 10/08	Driffield Steam Rally		Camp at steam rally
Sun 11/08	Driffield Steam Rally and return to London		(Expect to leave Driffield by mid/late afternoon)

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Financial Breakdown

	Expenditure
Minibus Hire	£449.00
Minibus fuel	£300.42
Bo / Derrick fuel	£118.27
Accommodation	£285.10
Food/Misc	£275.66
	£1,428.45
	Income
Union travel grant	£220.02
OC trust	£400.00
Members	£300.00
Club SGI	£232.77
Members Food/Misc	£275.66
	£1,428.45

Route



Day to day breakdown of the Tour

Sat 3/08

We have made an early start, aiming to be in the garage for 9AM which was quite an achievement considering everyone was sleeping outside the Capitol the night before. Having picked up Mat from London Victoria Stn about half an hour late, Mazda drove his own car all the way to the garage and headed off to pick up the minibus and trailer, both of which having been parked up in College the night before. There was a problem with trailer electrics that was tracked down to the plug and socket being less than clean, which resulted with Mat spending two hours cleaning up the contact points. In the meantime Sam arrived and was delegated away in order to photocopy three maps of the regions we were to be covering, idea being to save the original maps from being soaked in case the weather decided to prove all stereotypes. Having spent several hours at the photocopier he was not exactly happy to discover his labour being used only once during the entire Tour. This all resulted in us becoming hungry and heading off in order to fill up everyone (including Bo'), which in turn postponed loading up the trailer and the minibus – we ended up leaving towards the evening, order of ten hours late. Our first destination was a Tesco in Gloucestershire, where we have picked up some supplies for the Tour in form of food and another Team Bo' member. We have arrived in Ravenglass about 5AM, having taken a wrong turn that lead us to one of the lakes Donald McCampbell was using for his water speed trials.

We have decided to go to the campsite we had originally planned to stay at despite arriving there around the time we'd normally be supposed to leave it – luckily the person in charge did not mind it. We only inspected the state of Bo' after the towing experience, which he did not seem to mind much, had eaten our supper/breakfast, rested for a bit and headed off towards Coniston Waters.

Sun 4/08

The next night's stay was planned at a hostel in Coniston. Unfortunately, whilst there was parking available, it was not possible to park up the minibus and trailer at the same time; we have therefore decided to find a suitable spot to leave the trailer in, and park up the minibus and Bo' at the hostel. Having sorted those issues, we decided to take Bo' out around the entire lake – whole day's worth of driving – instead of sticking to the plan. Sam could not resist hiring out a bike so he cycled along (mostly ahead of) Bo' and took some pictures of us driving. Bo' seemed enjoy the route as much as his crew, other than occasionally jumping out of fourth gear while engine braking – this meant that whenever the engine would stall, we had to roll to a stop and start the engine using the start handle as it was not possible to double-declutch and get him back in gear when coasting without the engine running!



Mon 5/08

Having got the choice between getting on with the journey as planned, or driving around the local area and towing to our next destination, we have decided to go for the latter and headed off towards Tarn Hows. The scenery was absolutely stunning and breathtaking – the fame Lake District is receiving proved to be entirely justified. Unfortunately, weather was exactly as we'd been expecting and everyone became utterly soaked due to heavy rain. This was however not enough to offset the positives of the experience.

Due to his low gearing, Bo' seemed to cope well with climbing up the hills approaching 33% slopes – we only had to jump out and push on very few occasions – going downhill however was much more interesting as both of his brakes seemed not to do good enough a job stopping him from accelerating, let alone slowing down! Luckily we have quickly devised a method of engine braking in first gear that allowed us to continue our journey safely. We have taken a few pictures on our way downhill – regrettably it is very difficult to see the steepness of the slope. The wetness of the experience should be apparent though – good job there was a drying room back at the hostel!



Having completed the relatively short but extremely sensation-rich lap, we put Bo' on his trailer and headed off towards Kendall. After quite some time trying to find a safe parking space for Bo' (the hostel was unable to provide one) we were concerned with his safety and decided to detour from the plan and tow all the way to our next destination, staying at the camping site in Leyburn for two nights instead of one – luckily there was space for us. This proved to be a good idea as everyone enjoyed camping very much – that included a small unidentified mammal that ate most of our sausage rolls foolishly left outside the tent overnight!

Tue 6/08

The highlight of the day was meeting Jeff – an extremely nice man that helped Team Bo' several years before when Bo' was previously in Yorkshire, and who owns several classic vehicles including a 1906 Rover – very similar to Bo's predecessor that was the CGCU motorised mascot until the 1930s when the students decided to replace it with a Brighton Run-eligible car. Jeff was of course extremely interested in original Bo's history and we were more than happy to show him a photograph of Imperial's Rover.

We have parked up the minibus and the trailer outside Jeff's workshop located about halfway between Kendal and Leyburn and drove Bo' along the route that we would have been taking if we weren't short on drivers. Derrick has also been taken out of the back of the minibus and Sam was brave enough to ride pillion with Matt driving – courageous indeed! Due to being much faster, Derrick would ride ahead of Bo', then turn back, meet Bo', turn back again, ride for another several miles and so on. Unfortunately, Derrick's rear inner tube did not cope well with the increased load and needed replacing on the side of the road – good job we had a spare on the back of Bo'!



Having replaced the tube, Bo' resumed his journey and Derrick attempted to do so – only to lock up the rear wheel on testing the brake while riding! Luckily, somebody driving along the road did report the broken-down 1926 motorcycle to Jeff who came to the rescue with his pickup truck. Having loaded Derrick on its back, a visit has been arranged at a local classic bike enthusiast that helped out solving the issue and the bike came back to Jeff's garage under his own power.

We have decided to leave Bo' parked up in Jeff's garage overnight and headed off to the campsite in Leyburn to enjoy a relaxed evening there.

Weds 7/08

Having turned up at Jeff's and loaded Bo' up on the trailer, we have towed and unloaded him on the way to Terrington. Both weather and views of the countryside were extremely pleasant and everybody enjoyed the ride. We have experienced crossing a ford in Bo' – a rather rare occurrence – and were hoping not to stall the engine in the middle of it, as getting out of the car in order to hand crank in several inches deep water would not be a pleasant experience at all! As usual during the Tour, Bo' required little mechanical attention other than routine maintenance and was performing flawlessly on the day.



We have arrived in Terrington towards the evening, having towed Bo' from where we had left the minibus. The plan was to stay for the night at Bob's home – he was Bo' Driver the previous year – and we were greeted with much appreciated food as well as generous hospitality on the part of Bob's family.

Thurs 8/08

Having had a solid breakfast at Bob's, we have set off from his home, Team Bo' being consolidated by himself as well as his sister and girlfriend. Bob drove Bo' for the most part of the journey to Whitby, which meant we could stick to the plan for once and use the minibus as a proper support vehicle, eliminating the need to park it up and drive Bo' in a to-and-fro manner. Derrick hit the road also and escorted Bo', delivering Matt much fun on the day. Having reached Yorkshire Moors, Bob was given a lift back home by his Mum. We then towed Bo' for some distance with Derrick following the minibus and unloaded the trailer again just outside the North York Moors National Park for another unforgettable scenic drive. Sadly, every camera we had failed on this occasion due to flat batteries in case of normal members and a dodgy phone firmware upgrade in case of Sam (who studies computing). A rather amusing mishap occurred when we attempted to load Bo' back on the trailer having forgotten to hitch up – as nothing held the trailer's hook level, it shot off heading for the sky as soon as Bo's weight pressed on the back of the trailer, pulling the cables out of the plug as we left electrics connected due to their expected dodginess. Luckily no permanent damage was made and the plug was reassembled in minutes, the process made a bit uncomfortable because of large abundance of midges.

On that evening we have been joined by Matt H, who drove his own Transit van that serves him as a drag race car as well as a sleeping space. Conversely, upon our arrival at the hostel in Whitby, Matt decided to sleep in the back of his van that was parked up next to the Union minibus and Bo'.



Fri 9/08

This was the final day of the coast-to-coast itself and also we had enough drivers to eliminate the need for Bo' turning back at any time. The drive to Drifffield was mostly Bo' friendly countryside with low traffic and again we had little trouble with the car himself. Having arrived at the Steam Rally we were situated inbetween the Stanley steam car exposition and steam wagons – there was a car show but we wouldn't quite blend in! The Stanley display itself was wery interesting with one car scratch-built from original drawings up to the same standard as a real Stanley would have been hundred years before.

Sat 10/08

The first day at the Drifffield Rally was mostly spent on a trip in Bo' along with the steam cars to the Beverley Abbey, with a notable crane located at its loft – clearly an object of interest for engineering students. It was great to be able to directly compare Bo' with his steam equivalents – the latter having big advantages such as quietness and smothness of running, as well as ease of operation – but then where is fun in that! We spent the rest of the day exploring the steam fair, and met Bob again towards the evening – he was driving his dad's steam wagon. We have headed off to the town as a part of large convoy of (mostly) coal-fired steam vehicles – another once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Bob was kind enough to let us sit on the back of his wagon and Sam and Matt enjoyed supplying him with buckets of coal consumed in intimidating quantities by the wagon's boiler. Team Bo' was also visited by another ex-driver, Rob, who drove Bo' along. It was extremely amusing to „race” Bo' against the wagon – both vehicles having their top speed in the region of 20s mph – and we were extremely happy to see Bo' catching up with the wagon easily due to his higher top speed, albeit the wagon accelerated faster, as one would expect from a steam vehicle



Sun 11/08

The last day of the Tour was spent at the Steam Rally. We have driven Bo' around the Rally's ring along with the steam cars, and were awarded a medal for participating. Afterwards Matt drove Bo' back to the trailer – this being his first experience of driving Bo' – and we packed everything up and headed off to London in reasonable time.

Conclusion

While changes to the Tour had to be made, everyone was more than happy throughout the journey. There were no major issues with Bo' preventing us from meeting our targets in terms of speed and visiting locations. On some days we would prefer to explore the local area in more detail, rather than getting on with the journey, but irregardless of whether on the trailer or under his own power, Bo' managed to make it coast to coast. The Tour was definitively one of the most special events in every participant's lifes and each of them very much appreciates this very unique opportunity given by Imperial College Union.

Financial Breakdown

Transport: £448.10
Activities: £863.03
Food and drink: £587.43

Total cost: £1898.53

Day-by-day Account

A group of five of us left London on Friday 20th September in the van. We headed straight for Cergy; a town near Paris, France, in which lives a member of the club. We spent the night there, ready in the morning for a trip to Cergy's wakeboarding cable.

It was only a short session as we had to make our way down to Montauban that same day. We drove the distance and arrived at our hotel in the late evening. We spent the night there, rising early to make our way to Cap'Découverte in Albi; an "adventure park" that has a huge variety of activities – wakeboarding, skateboarding, BMX, mountain biking... the list goes on.

When we had finished up in Albi, we made our way to Toulouse, our real destination for the tour. We stayed in a small town about 50km outside of Toulouse. We stayed in small units by a lake on which there is a wakeboarding cable.

We rode at this venue for the next six days. The cable was open all day and so the majority of our time was spent on the water. When we weren't riding, we would eat and drink back at the units.

On Saturday 28th September, we left Toulouse for Limoges, a town two hours north of Toulouse. We slept here, then set off early on Sunday to make the trip back to London as easy as possible. We arrived back in London late on Sunday evening where we were dropped off at our various homes.

Attendees

Attending were five club members and the partner of one club member.

Dates of the Tour

The tour ran from Friday 20th September to Sunday 29th September.

Did the Tour Meet Expectations?

Our aim was to provide a week of wakeboarding in a warm, exciting location at an affordable price. I think we achieved this entirely, although it might be worth in the future investigating other locations since we have visited this venue for two summer tours now.

Were There Any Changes to Proposed Activities

There were no real changes to proposed activities, although we did add an extra day to the tour in order to experience another cable en route to Toulouse.

Were There Any Major Issues?

There were no major issues. The Tour ran very smoothly,

Yacht Club Summer Tour Report

Financial Breakdown:

Yacht Charter: £1,620

Yacht Charter related (fuel etc): £296.84

Travel & Accommodation: £2,413.46

Food: £271.76

Total: **£4,602.06**

Day by Day Account:

On **Friday** Emma (chair) & Nick flew ahead to Athens in order to be ready to pick the boat up on Saturday and kindly stock it full of tasty food. Maciej, Alex & Josh followed on Saturday evening (with poor Tom unable to fly due to sickness) and by 10pm all were fed & sat by the marina enjoying a drink in the Greek evening heat.

Sunday began fairly early with the departure from Edem marina and off we went sailing across the Aegean. Sadly the wind wasn't quite all it had been cracked up to be so after many hours of aggressive floating and some lunch we decided to head into a small anchorage outside of Aegina. The weather was scorching, the sea was cool and inviting and everyone ventured in for a dip off the back of the anchored boat. We had some dinner then decided to utilise the dinghy for an exploration of the island & some of the ancient architecture on the point overlooking us.

Monday presented the Imperial crew with their first encounter with the Mediterranean favoured stern-to mooring system. With plenty of squeezing, head jerking from Nick on the helm and some help from the local old boys we managed to get into a gap and stocked up on some supplies. We set off again before lunch with a plan to head for Poros and it's waterfront restaurants & bars. We got some great sailing in around the local area and Mike discovered his dream home. We popped into another beautiful anchorage and went for a swim before docking at the marina and heading out to sample the town.

Tuesday was another beautiful day but sadly a lack of wind prevailed. We did our best to get some sailing in but decided instead a better day could be had in an anchorage near Poros swimming, snorkelling and rigging up a local favourite of anchoring near shore and attaching a stern line to a tree – which provided much amusement. We had an excellent dinner then fell asleep to ever-present sound of the cicada in the trees.

Wednesday presented an opportunity for some sailing with good wind and we carried it all the way to the small fishing town of Palaea Epidhavros where we found a perfect spot on the marina and a lovely restaurant serving possibly the best bread & olive starters that were ever had. A quaint little shop provided postcards the next morning and with the end of the week imminent on

Thursday we headed towards the far side of Aegina and a small anchorage there, a little closer to Athens for the return journey the following day. We attempted a hook & kedge anchor setup for some fun & spent the rest of the evening snorkelling and diving down to investigate the anchors and the seabed, and the literally hundreds of fish bathing near the rocky shore. A nearby anchored catamaran provided an opportunity for some distance swimming

before a tasty dinner and some drinks to finish off the week. Mike even chose to sleep under the stars.

Friday was spent exploring the coastline east of Athens searching for a place for lunch – with some surprising results with the afternoon offshore winds. After another exploration of a some old ruins we headed for Edem marina as night fell and were back on the pontoon by midnight.

Despite some appalling delays to flights on the Saturday everyone got home safely by Sunday and a fantastic week was had by all.

Members attending:

6 full members

Dates:

20/07/13 – 27/07/13

Aims & Objectives:

As planned, the tour provided some excellent experience for the crew, opportunities to gain more sea miles and practice at the helm as well as of course a well earned break after exam season.

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