

Tours Reports 2009/10



Contents

Contents	2
Introduction	3
Financial Breakdown	5
Tour Reports - Winter	9
Tour Reports - Spring	58
Tour Reports - Summer	107

Introduction

Last year the IC Trust generously awarded Imperial College Union £19,500 to spend on funding tours for students. The Union used this to subsidise trips taken to further the aims and objectives of its Clubs Societies & Projects in a way that extended the range of their ordinary activities. This usually involves travel to a different location.

A tour is defined as:

“a period of at least two residential nights spent by members of a Club or Society away from the geographical locality of their mainstream Club & Society activities, supplementary to their normal practices and which furthers the aims and objectives of the Club or Society, supporting their activities beyond which can be achieved through usual day-to-day, week-to-week operations.”

Clubs & Societies are required to submit a tour report detailing the financial details and activities undertaken whilst on tour. These documents form the basis of this report and the IC Trust is able to see how its money is used to support student activity throughout the year. The money is primarily used for subsidising transport, up to 40% of the transport costs per student. This has been applied according to a flexible cap method - such that lower cost tours are subsidised the



Heather Jones

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

E: dpcs@imperial.ac.uk

T: 020 7594 1763, extension: 41763

full 40% whereas more costly tours may receive a much lower percentage of their total travel costs. If there is any money left over it can be used to subsidise other aspects of the tour such as accommodation or equipment. However, this is extremely rare.

Applications are deemed valid as tours or not, and therefore are eligible for funding or not, by the Clubs & Societies Board (CSB) of the Union. This is done in accordance with the Tours Policy and by a majority vote of the Board in each case. Applications are assessed three times a year for each of three tour periods. At the first CSB meeting of the year the

Introduction cont...

available funding is split into proportions deemed prudent for periods that year. For the year 2009/10 this split was 30%, 20%, 50% for the winter, spring and summer tour periods respectively.

The allocations by Club/Society and per person in going on each tour are given in the Financial Breakdown section. Despite our best efforts sadly not all tours go ahead. In addition, the number predicted participants and numbers attending can vary from that projected. If a club does not go on tour they retain the tour money allocated to them by CSB so that they can use it if they wish to go on a tour in

the future. This differs from the tours money allocated by the Union which is given at the same time but is reabsorbed four weeks after the tour period if it has not yet been spent.

The range of activities supported by this funding is a credit to Imperial College as the Trust can see from the reports submitted by the students. Imperial College Union would like to thank the Trust for the opportunities it continues to allow students to have and the activities it allows the Union to pursue through its generous funding.

Financial Breakdown

For each of the tour periods the allocation of money is shown below, both overall and per person as well as a description of the Tour's destination. The full tour report – where collected – can be found the Tour Reports section.

Winter

Club/Society	Tour	IC Trust	Attendees (non- IC Students)	IC Trust per funding per student
A&E Orchestra	South Africa	£2,528.10	55 (5)	£45.97
ICSMSU Badminton	Enschede, Netherlands	£673.26	20	£33.66
ICSMSU Christian Medical Fellowship	National Student Conference, Derbyshire	£158.74	33	£4.81
RCC Canoe	Scotland	£96.66	4 (3)	£24.17
RCC Caving	Yorkshire	£244.67	12 (2)	£20.39
RCC Exploration	Rjukan, Norway	£763.20	16	£47.70
RCC Fellwanderers	Glen Nevis, Scotland	£145.64	15	£9.71
RCC Gliding	Portmoak, Scotland	£133.27	7 (2)	£19.04
RCC Mountaineering	North Wales	£114.26	8	£14.28
RCC Outdoor Club	Cairngorms, Scotland	£627.56	20	£31.38
RSM De La Beche	Anglesey, Wales	£364.12	34	£10.71
Total		£5485.36	224(12)	

Financial Breakdown cont...

Spring

Club/Society	Tour	IC Trust	Attendees (non- IC Students)	IC Trust per funding per student
A&E String Ensemble	Brighton	£111.18	20	£5.56
CGCU Civil Eng	Rome, Italy	£678.64	68	£9.98
ICSMSU Hockey	Prague, Czech Republic	£229.54	23	£9.98
ICSMSU Mountaineering	Montpelier, France	£139.72	14	£9.98
OSC Cypriot	Prague, Czech Republic	£738.52	74	£9.98
OSC Thai	Nottingham	£185.17	60	£3.09
RCC Caving	Sardinia	£79.84	8	£9.98
RCC Dance Company	Edinburgh, Scotland	£309.38	31	£9.98
RCC Fellwanderers	Cairngorns, Scotland	£149.70	15	£9.98
RCC Gliding	Aston Down, Gloucestershire	£89.82	3 (1)	£29.94
RCC Mountaineering	Arco, Italy	£99.80	10	£9.98
RCC Outdoor Club	Antalya, Turkey	£159.68	16	£9.98
RCC Parachute	Pamiers, France	£149.70	15	£9.98
RCC Poker	Birmingham	£99.80	10	£9.98
RCC Underwater	Cornwall	£229.54	23	£9.98
RCC Wakeboarding	Antalya, Turkey	£109.78	11	£9.98
RSM Hockey	Blackpool	£179.64	18	£9.98
SCC ArtSoc	Vienna, Austria	£159.68	16	£9.98
Total		£3,899.13	455 (1)	

Summer

Club/Society	Tour	IC Trust	Attendees (non- IC Students)	IC Trust per funding per student
ACC Hockey	Croatia	£726.99	33	£22.03
ACC Gaelic Sports	Barcelona and Madrid, Spain	£492.63	27	£18.25
ICSMSU Music	Budapest	£1,211.65	55	£22.03
A&E Jazz Big Band	China	£572.78	26	£22.03
A&E Dramatic Society	Edinburgh, Scotland	£124.53	14	£8.90
ICSMSU Mountaineering	El Chorro, Spain	£220.30	10	£22.03
ACC Rugby	Japan	£903.23	41	£22.03
OSC Palestinian Soc	Palestine	£220.30	10	£22.03
RCC Caving	Slovenia	£308.42	14	£22.03
RCC Outdoor	Sass Fee, Switzerland	£286.39	13	£22.03
ACC Judo	Japan	£66.09	3	£22.03
ICSMSU Lacrosse	Bath	£150.53	25	£6.02
RCC Gliding	Bicester	£135.77	10	£13.58
ACC Ultimate Frisbee	Burla, Italy	£264.36	12	£22.03
A&E Musical Theatre Tour	Devon	£328.42	30	£10.95
RCC Canoe	French Alps	£308.42	14	£22.03
SCC Cheese	Hawes	£114.95	10	£11.50
ACC Football	Hungary & Slovakia	£484.66	22	£22.03
RCC Fellwanderers	Jungfrau Region, Switzerland	£242.33	11	£22.03
ACC Fencing	Malta	£198.27	9	£22.03
RCC Underwater	Portland	£162.08	17	£9.53
A&E Sinfonietta	Porto, Portugal	£1,542.10	70	£22.03
RCC Mountaineering	Sardinia	£330.45	15	£22.03
A&E String Ensemble	Prague, Czech Republic	£220.30	10	£22.03
ACC Lawn Tennis	Valencia	£132.18	6	£22.03
Total		£9,748.13	507	

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 are doing. Many of these reports formed the foundation for an article in the student newspaper, Felix, and most were circulated round the Club or Society.

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

Winter Reports



Tour Report – Imperial College Symphony Orchestra

In January 2010 Imperial College Symphony Orchestra (ICSO) toured to South Africa as the first full symphony orchestra to play in the Johannesburg International Mozart Festival. After being invited by Florian Uhlig, world renowned pianist and brains behind the festival, ICSO was granted a few days leave during the spring term and set to work perfecting the repertoire for the three concerts.

Duration of Absence: Thursday 28th January – Wednesday 3rd of February 2010.

Attendance: 60 ICSO members (inc. 5 non-IC members) and IC Director of Music, Richard Dickins.

Purpose of trip: To provide orchestra members with a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit South Africa and to perform in an International music festival collaborating with renowned professional musicians. Thus, improving the musical proficiency of the orchestra and presenting a valuable culturally and socially enriching experience.

Cost of Tour to Students: £355 (+£50 for Pilanesburg Games Reserve Trip)

Sponsors: Accenture, IC Union. ICSO also received a charitable donation from the Else and Leonard Cross Trust.

Outcome of trip: ICSO received a standing ovation after each of their three concerts, not to mention an unprecedented standing ovation prior to the interval in their first concert, which was reviewed as a “spectacular success.” All members were excellent ambassadors for the University and left a very good impression on both the host families and organisers of the festival. This resulted in an open invitation from the festival organisers for ICSO to return in future years. Subsequently, the orchestra has benefited from increased publicity leading to a boost in potential sponsorship from external sources. The ICSO members were generally agreed that the tour had fulfilled its ‘once in a life time’ tag. The tour could only possibly be improved by ICSO staying in South Africa for longer; however this is difficult as the festival will only take place during term time.



Tour Review

Never before has a musical society been given the approval of the Rector and all the heads of department to travel half way across the world for five days during term and give no less than three concerts, one of which was broadcast on national radio. At the end of January ICSO did just that on its whirlwind tour to the Johannesburg International Mozart Festival, South Africa.

Last year IC Symphony Orchestra was invited to play in the Mozart Festival in 2010. The orchestra's conductor and director of music Richard Dickins originally thought the idea would be impossible and permission for the students to miss four days of college would never be given. Luckily the Rector agreed that the trip would be an amazing opportunity for us all. Thanks to the hard work of our excellent Chair, Treasurer and Tour Manager (Will Cowley, Leo Martins and Tom Budden respectively), as well as the festival administrators, the tour went ahead without a hitch.

Our eleven and a half hour plane journey (with a four hour stopover in Paris,) began on the afternoon of Thursday 28th of February. Thanks to the complementary drinks from Air France on both flights and their exemplary service we all made it to Johannesburg in good spirits, bar possibly the three people whose luggage was left in Paris and just made to South Africa in time for our first concert the following day...

Throughout our time in Johannesburg we were looked after superbly by our host families – most of whom were members of a local choir run by Richard Cock, the festival administrator– who obligingly ferried us to and from our rehearsal venue and fed and watered us until we could take no more. The day we arrived in the country, after briefly meeting our hosts, we went straight into a rehearsal at our concert venue, the Linder Auditorium at the Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg. The next day – that of our first concert – most of us were up bright and early with our hosts visiting the local African craft markets to do some haggling or at some of the prestigious museums in the city, such as the Apartheid Museum and Constitution Hill. The afternoon rehearsal was followed by a fantastic pre-concert dinner put on by the organisers of the festival for which we were all incredibly grateful. The first concert, with a programme of Elgar's "Cockaigne" Overture, Finzi's Eclogue for piano and strings Op.10 with soloist Malcolm Nay Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March No.1 and Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 2 in E minor Op.27, went down exceptionally well with the audience – who even gave us a standing ovation after just the first half. Encores of Pomp and Circumstance, with audience participation ensued!



Many of the members of the orchestra spent the night partying out with their hosts, most notably Sam Leveridge and others who were out celebrating his 21st birthday to the extent that he was unable to make early start the next day for our safari trip to the Pilanesburg Games Reserve. Despite what was considered a late start for a safari by our guides (about ten o'clock in the morning by the time we got there) we were fortunate enough to see three of the Big Five game – elephants, lions and rhinos – and many other animals, not least of which were the giraffes, hippos and zebra. It was an amazing experience to see these animals in the wild. Once again in the park's shop we were all bargaining over the gifts we wanted to take home, before heading back to the park's resort for an amazing buffet lunch and a relaxing afternoon in the sunshine by the pool!



Monday brought with it another free morning with our generous (and very trusting!) hosts one of which allowed some of the more senior medics in the orchestra to borrow their car so they could explore the city some more by themselves. A car in Johannesburg is unfortunately an essential, as they do not have a public transport infrastructure as in London and in some areas it would not have been sensible to walk around as tourists. The afternoon rehearsal brought us our first meeting with the soloists for the evening, Lidia Baich (violin) and Matthias Fletzberger (piano), who were both without doubt fantastic performers. It was also a chance for the orchestra to get used to playing alongside a rock band, as the concert was entitled *"Rock me, Amadeus"*. Another excellent meal was provided for

the orchestra and we all got to watch the most amazing sunset over Johannesburg before going in to play. The programme consisted of Mozart's *Symphony No. 5* and *Symphony No. 37*, followed by Mozart's *Violin Concerto No. 4* with Lidia Baich. The rock band then joined us to perform the *andante* from Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 21* and then Saint-Saens' *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso* for orchestra and rock band, arranged by Lidia Baich to round off the evening. Once again the audience loved the concert and, unbeknownst to the orchestra, it was in fact broadcast live on South Africa's Classic FM.



The members of the orchestra then spent their last night with their host families, giving gifts and cards and much gratitude. The following morning we set out for our final concert in South Africa in the township of Alexandra, just outside the city, in the local community centre. The audience consisted mostly of local school children who came up on stage to sit amongst the orchestra and got a chance to play some of the percussion instruments and to conduct. We played excerpts from most of our pieces, with Richard Dickins introducing the different instruments and getting them to play a little something to the audience. Highlights included a version of 'In the Jungle' for bassoon quartet and a mariachi band tune from the brass section. The entire orchestra loved playing for the children and having them come and sit with them – one of the young girls was so good at conducting that we almost didn't need Richard for the rest of the concert!

Before heading back to the airport we had the most fantastic end to tour in the form of a buffet lunch (once more paid for by the tour organisers) and pool side antics at the Johannesburg country club. Prizes were given out to the Tour Couple (you know who you are!) and Tour King and Queen amongst other things. The orchestra got an opportunity to say thank you to the organisers for our time in South Africa –Richard Cock, Florian Uhlig, Caroline Kennard and Samantha McGrath – and we even got an invitation back to play in both the Cape Town and Johannesburg Festivals next year.

There was not a single person who did not enjoy their time away; the trip may have been short but it was worth every moment and everyone is more than eager to go back. It is hard to describe just how amazing the experience was and how much fun everyone had just being away together on tour in a place so far from home. All we can do is to say another huge thank you to all the people that made the trip possible and looked after us so well while we were away.

If you would like to hear more of ICSO our next concert is on Friday 12th March at 8pm in the Great Hall, with a programme of Juan Pablo Moncayo's *Huapango* (for which we will be joined by IC Dance Company), Beethoven's 2nd *Piano Concerto* with soloist Shuang Wang (Medicine, year 6) and Holst's *The Planets*. Tickets are £3 in advance (£4 on the door) for students and are available from any member of the orchestra, or from the Blyth Centre. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Financial Report

Personnel

Paying Members: 60
Includes: 6 Cellos

Expenditure	Amount (Gross)	VAT (17.5%)	Amount (Net)*	Quantity	Total
Flights	£478.00	£0.00	£478.00	60	£28,680
Instrument Seats	£210.00	£0.00	£210.00	6	£1,260
Game Reserve	£4,800.00	£0.00	£4,800.00	1	£4,800
				TOTAL	£34,740

Income	Amount (Gross)	VAT (17.5%)	Amount (Net)*	Quantity	Total
Tour Ticket	£355.00	£52.87	£302.13	60	£18,128
Games Reserve Ticket	£50.00	£7.45	£42.55	58	£2,468
SymphUni	£5,000.00	£0.00	£5,000.00	1	£5,000
Union Grant	£3,694.63	£0.00	£3,694.63	1	£3,695
ICSO SGI	£1,500.00	£0.00	£1,500.00	1	£1,500
ICSO Patrons	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	1	£2,000
Accenture	£2,000.00	£350.00	£1,702.13	1	£1,702
E&L Cross Trust	£400.00	£0.00	£400.00	1	£400
				TOTAL	£34,893

Profit/Loss £153

ICSM Badminton Winter Tour Report

For Winter tour, ICSM Badminton club went to Enschede in the Netherlands to take part in the International Student Badminton Tournament, DIOK. It took place between the 28th December 2009 and the 1st January 2010 with matches being played between the 29th and 31st December.

Six Imperial students took part in the tournament: Naveen Setty, Priya Garg, Craig Bradnam, Balvinder Handa and Antony Teoh who are all full members of ICSM Badminton as well as Lee Ramsingh who is not a full member this year and came as our guest.

Each member played twelve matches in total, four on each day, in various categories. Two members played in category D and the other four played in category C. Each player played in two of three disciplines namely singles, doubles and mixed doubles. In the evening social events were arranged by the DIOK committee, including meals, club events and other social activities.

Each member paid for their travel and their entrance fee of 70€ which included food, social events and tournament play. Subsidy has been allocated for the members which has not yet been claimed but will be in the near future once all the required paperwork is assembled.

Our Aims and Objectives were to further our badminton abilities, experience a level of play higher than we would expect to normally play against and to be ambassadors for Imperial College and ICSM Badminton. We achieved these objectives by performing to a high standard with Antony coming first in the mixed doubles discipline. All players performed consistently over the tournament and did well against the strong opposition.

All members enjoyed the tour, with four going for the first time and two for the second. We all agreed that we would like to go again. The only issue that arose on tour was lack of sleep as there were around 250 players sleeping in the same hall. Improvements for the future would be to change the timing of tour, as Christmas time was not the most convenient time for other members, as well as publicising tour further in advance and more effectively to increase numbers for next time.

Everyone that went had a great time and we would all recommend members of the future to take part next time.



Winter Tour Report 2010 ICSM Christian Medical Fellowship (725)

Over 300 medical students and doctors from the UK and abroad attended this year's Christian Medical Fellowship (CMF) National Student Conference in Derbyshire, UK from 12-14th February. Thirty-three Imperial delegates attended this year's conference, the **most** from any other medical school and the biggest number Imperial has ever seen! The Imperial group ranged from fresher to final year; with some of the final years attending conference for the 6th time in a row! With the help of our tour application and fundraising we were able to subsidise first timers nearly 50% of their conference entrance ticket. All delegates were IC CMF members and out of the 33, we had 18 first timers!



The evening before conference, Imperial and UCL students hosted a pre-conference night for the international students attending conference. This was a unique opportunity to have a time of fellowship, games and to learn from each other's respective cultures, whilst introducing the students to a London medical school. Countries represented included Azerbaijan, Georgia, Jordan, Lithuania and Tajikistan. Many of the international students come from very small CMF groups and face persecution for being a Christian medic; meeting them help remind me how often I take for granted the freedom I have in the UK to practice my faith.

Friday afternoon, saw us set off from South Kensington in Imperial minibuses en route to the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanick. We arrived just at dinner to a host of glorious home cooked food that we would enjoy all weekend! The title of this year's conference was 'Crash Call: an urgent appointment with the Living God' based on the fact that in the busyness of studying, university life etc. we can sometimes neglect to give God the space he deserves in our lives. Over the weekend we had 3 main conference talks interspersed between other activities that were delivered by Pastor Terry Virgo. Conference talks were followed by review groups which gave us the opportunity to discuss what we had taken from or learnt from the talk, and also an opportunity to get to know med students from other universities.



Throughout the day we would attend the seminars of our choice. Each seminar typically consisted of 20 students and addressed issues relevant to us as students within a Christian context. Led by doctors (either academic or clinical) they permitted a more personal and informal setting to discuss wider issues. Seminar titles included: organising your elective, psychiatry, answering other faiths, alcohol and FY1 survival kit. Seminars are conference highlights for most, as you receive teaching and insight into areas that can neither be wholly taught by your med school or your church.

My personal favourite was the 'Disability' seminar, led by a consultant neurologist; we discussed a number of difficult real life case studies in which we decided whether or not we would treat the patient and what our approach would be as a Christian. One example included treating a West Indian lady who became quadriplegic following a sexually transmitted virus. Before her illness she was on the verge of taking her citizenship exam. Her passport and all evidence of legal stay were subsequently stolen. The authorities passed her over as a 'bed blocker' with no legal right to healthcare, however if she were to be sent home she would surely die. This was a personal case to the neurologist who fought for her to stay and thank God, 6 months later the patient has made a great recovery and is now a British citizen (she took the test in hospital!).

During free time we could enjoy the sporting facilities, relax, explore the CMF bookstore or the beautiful grounds of the conference centre. Some of the Imperial group enjoyed the latter where we attempted to spell out 'Imperial CMF '10'. The evening consisted of great entertainment; university challenge, a praise concert, a Celidh, film and discussion and a chill out zone (organised by one of our committee members). I tried to get to as much of the fun as possible, firstly I saw us lose to the Midlands in University challenge, then set off for the praise concert for a time of worship and prayer and then ended up in the chill out zone with a large group 'til the early hours of the morning!





As Sunday was Valentine's Day, every student awoke to a personal gift outside their room; love heart sweets attached to a scripture from the Bible, mine read, *'This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.'* 1 John 4:10. In the last few hours of conference we attended our final seminars, talks, made a final dash to the discounted bookstore and finally said our goodbyes whilst exchanging contacts with the new friends we had made.

This conference has been an invaluable experience for those who attended,

First timer Chris Lai (1st year Post graduate entry) says,

'The CMF conference was an amazing experience. After a hectic term in London, I thoroughly enjoyed spending a weekend in the English countryside with good food, fresh air and the Holy Spirit. Over 30 Imperial students were joined by another 300 medics from all over the UK. In addition, there were a number of students we had sponsored to come from further afield, some of whom have encountered difficulties practising their faith.'

The main focus of the conference was a series of seminars of our choosing, in which small groups discussed a variety of issues pertinent to medicine and student life within a Christian biblical context. These were chaired by expert doctors who were more than willing to pass on their knowledge and experience. We were also treated to a number of interesting talks, praise and worship sessions and the opportunity to explore the conference centre and its surroundings. All of these contributed to a relaxing, friendly atmosphere of brotherhood and solidarity.

For me, the highlight was spending time with several hundred like-minded young people who were both medical students and Christians. I was able to learn a lot and look forward to going to next year's conference!'

The conference definitely met its objective as we have all been personally challenged to think about the bigger picture of Medicine, the issues we may face as Christian medics and to better know how to serve God through Medicine. This year through minibus ticket sales and travel grants we can cover the cost of transport. The total cost for first timers is £486, which is far more than we anticipated; some of which will be subset by our grants and the rest our SGI so we thank you for your generous contribution toward our tour; you have helped us send the biggest Imperial group to conference to date!



Clubs and Societies Board

22nd March 2010

There were no changes to any of our proposed aims, objectives and activities. We thank God because we did not encounter any major issues on tour and we arrived there and back safely. Our only improvement will be to pick up the minibuses earlier as we had some problems with the last minute checks of the minibuses which led to a delay and us nearly missing dinner! Also a group of keen freshers decided to come up by coach as not to miss their lectures, although admirable even they stated they will not do the same next year. Therefore perhaps next year we can arrange for another minibus to leave at a later time for those not able to leave in the afternoon such as those out on placements and super keen freshers.



Clubs and Societies Board

22nd March 2018



Canoe Club: Scotland New Year 2009-10

The Week Long Trip Where One River Was Paddled (Twice)

People (4 full members, 3 non-full members)

- Antony Farrington
- Luke Geldermans
- Alistair "snow drift" Cott
- Rachel "too cold to paddle" Fox
- Tom "hand-roll" Leeman
- Rik Williams
- Rory Fyffe

Trip Report

Once again they went to Scotland; hoping that this time there would be water. This time there was, quite a bit actually. Unfortunately though, it was all frozen as snow on land, and what little was in the rivers was mainly ice. Nonetheless, a good time was had by all.

27th Dec

Everyone met at Beit at the much later than usual time of 9am, with the intention of leaving by 10am sharp (as Ally needed to catch a train into London). The bus was loaded with alarming efficiency; so much so that faff karma was inevitably going to ensue: Firstly, it turned out that Rik's boat had accidentally been left in Paddington stores after the last trip, and then Ally's train was delayed meaning he didn't reach Beit until 1020. We reached Paddington and after 10 minutes of searching the stores for a boat that really isn't *that* small it was concluded that Rik's boat must have been in Beit stores afterall. We eventually left Beit for the second time, but at last with Rik's boat at 11am.

The journey initially ran smoothly until around Birmingham where we hit some shocking traffic. We left the traffic briefly to pick up Tom from the M5 services, and then re-joined the traffic until Manchester.

From then on the journey went well and we made up some time, finally reaching the hut at about 0030, but at least with food for the next days meals.

28th Dec

Scotland is beautiful in the snow, which is fortunate as it was immediately appararent that there wasn't much paddling to be done. We initially headed up to the Dam in the vague hope that it might be releasing: it wasn't. Unfortunately the bus got stuck in the layby next to the dam, so a lot of faff putting the snow chains on was to be had. Once everyone had had a go at getting the snow chains back off again, they were finally removed and we headed back down to Spean bridge, still hopeful that we might just be able to paddle it. Not surprisingly, it was very low; but would have been paddleable

had it not been frozen solid the entire way across the river. It was now getting late, so a last ditch attempt to go paddling was made by heading to the Arkaig. Somehow the Arkaig wasn't frozen at all, and although very low, it was a nice fun paddle down for the group (minus Rachel). We managed to catch a few small surf waves and have a quick game of king of the wave below the main event. Rachel kindly shuttled the bus and walked back up the river; meeting us about halfway down with her camera.



29th Dec

After another quick look at the Spean and a glance at the equally low and frozen Roy; it was decided to go and use the boats for another precipitation related sport, but one more appropriate to the temperature: snowboating.

We inspected the map for suitable looking contour lines and headed for a hill just above Fort William. At last we had some luck and found a nice long hill with plenty of snowboating potential. Rik kindly offered for us to use his boat jokingly saying "it doesn't matter if it gets broken". Inevitably a ramp was soon built, and we were managing to get some pretty respectable air. It was at this point that an ironic, and very sad event occurred: Rik made a run towards ramp mark 2, missed it completely and went down the innocuous looking slope to one side - only to go over a very sharp rock, which with a load crack created a big, forked split in the bottom of his boat. This, alas was the end of poor "Scumfacer's" river paddling days; although he was promoted to snowboating boat of choice.

A few more runs were had before everyone headed into Fort-William for a few supplies. Realising that a lot of walking in the snow was quite likely, Ant and Rory annoyed Rach by both buying the exact same gaiters that she had just got. Muhahaha.

30th Dec

Getting fed-up of not being able to paddle, yet another attempt was made to paddle the Spean. This time it was decided to test the breakability of the ice, but it was considerably too thick to even break, let alone safely paddle on.

As a result it was decided to try something new and head to the "Highland Mystery World". Unfortunately, it's location turned out to be a complete mystery and it was eventually found out that it had closed down years ago.

Undeterred, the group of intrepid tourist attraction hunters (minus Luke, who stayed at the hostel) continued on and headed off towards Oban.

The Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary was visited first. This proved to be a very interesting (although quite expensive) visit. The pair of otters happened to like posing for and playing in front of the camera,

giving Rachel (and Rik?) plenty of photo opportunities. There was also an inquisitive Seal, along with plenty of the usual Sea Life Sanctuary suspects.

From there they missioned on to Oban. Rory, Ant and Tom decided to go on the Oban Distillery Tour, whilst Ally and Rik elected to go for the chocolate factory tour. Rachel worried everyone by choosing not to go on the chocolate factory tour, a feeling that was not eased when she was spotted walking straight past the Lindt shop!

As it turned out, the Distillery tour was full and the chocolate factory had finished for the day. Ally and Rik got some fish and chips and then met everyone but Rachel for a rather calorific Crepe. The day was finished with a full-scale search of Oban for Rach; who had left her phone in the bus, a shopping trip and back to the hostel for some well earned drinks and more good food.

31st Dec

It was decided that whilst there was no real chance of paddling the Etive, it was certainly worth a visit.

Rik and Luke stayed at the hostel to get some work done, and the rest headed off. First was a visit to the Glen Coe visitor centre, which gave a very interesting timeline of the history of Glen Coe, along with more recent conservation efforts. From there it was on to Glen Etive. The group parked just beyond the get out for the middle Etive after a very careful drive along the icy road.



As suspected a lot of the River was frozen, so much so that it was at least 4 inches thick in places, and one of the small tributaries was being ice-climbed... As the group walked up the Etive, an RAF Sea King rescue helicopter flew up the valley, this time not for for a member of ICCC! Right Angle Falls were investigated, which was rather picturesque; although so iced over, it was completely un-runnable. From there it was back to the bus and onto (?the pub?) for some food and drink. (In the case of Ant, Rory and Tom this drink consisted of a pint of Ale and some unusual whisky).

Back at the Hostel, general tarting up of ICCC ensued, along with cooking of Haggis, Tatters and Turnips. Rik, Ally and Luke then chickened out of the Ceilidh at the Nevis Centre, leaving just Rachel, Ant, Rory and Tom to the fun. As it happened ICCC was on the same table as Alice, an ICCC Alumni! Rory as usual got stuck into the Ceilidh, with Tom in particular close behind and a good night with plenty of drinking (Cola on Rachel's part) was had by all. The bus got back to the hostel at about 0130. Rory and Ant managed to eat most of the last two days leftovers before bed.

1st Jan

Mainly due to the night before, it was nearly lunch time by the time everyone was up. A good old fry up was had, and it was decided to head off to the Arkaig for one last paddle before we left. By the time everyone was on the water (apart from Rachel, who selflessly offered to shuttle.....) it was early

afternoon. It was a pleasant run down to the main event, with the river still low, but fortunately not frozen. This is where it got interesting (and amusing). Ally was first down the main event, followed by Ant. Ally got stuck in the hole at the first drop and swam. Ant ran the drop extra-hard left (mostly down the rock) to get down to help Ally, but by the time Ant was able to help, Ally had self-rescued himself and all his kit (apart from one wetsuit booty - still missing). Rory was next down, and also got caught out by the same hole as Ally, resulting in the second swim. Luke then followed down (successfully) to help rescue kit. Tom was the penultimate man down, capsized (same hole), lost his paddles, ran the second drop upside down and impressively hand rolled at the bottom. Rik failed to buck the trend and also swam in the same hole. Tom's paddled



were rescued from their pin on the bottom of the river above the second drop, and Luke went up to re-run the drop whilst everyone got back in their boats. This time Luke rolled in between drops to finish off the selection of mess-ups. The rest of the river was finished without incident and it was back to the hut for the last meal of the trip and a few drinks.

2nd Jan

It was decided to head home as there was no further paddling to be had, and skiing on Ben Nevis for a day was just too expensive for most. An early start was made to prevent a repeat of the late arrival at the start of the trip. The bus nearly got away at the planned time, and was only briefly slowed by dropping off of Rik's boat at the Nevis Centre, which he had negotiated would be the new ornament on top of the reception desk! The traffic was better than on the way up, but still bad, meaning everyone left the union after unpacking the bus by about 10pm.

Money

- C&S - £44.61
- Trust - £96.66
- Per person cost - £195.66

Author: Antony Farrington

Photos: Rachel Fox

Caving Club Winter Tour Report

Numbers Attending

Full members - 12

Others - 2

Total - 14

Dates

18th December to the 24th December

What Happened and Members Impressions

The detailed descriptions of the two days of caving not canceled due to the bad weather (Saturday and Monday) are described by members of the club and are their impressions of how the tour went. As such the detailed descriptions only concentrate on certain trips and can miss out parts of the tour carried out by other members on different 'teams' or trips that day.

Friday:

Coming up via Nottingham and Manchester, and enduring the 50mph roadworks, it was well after 2am that we arrived at Greenclose, swinging out along the A65 and coming back via Clapham to avoid the snowed in side roads. The snow didn't seem too heavy... yet.

Saturday:

Before the tired students had so much as raised their heads, an NPC team was off with our Notts I permit. Our caving plan, quickly discussed from the bunk beds, was to attempt to follow the 4x4 up onto Leck fell, catch up the NPC team and rig an additional route in the first section. Others of us would pop down LJs as far as the Battleaxe traverse for a more gentle introduction to Yorkshire SRT.

This plan started to come unstuck when we realised the van couldn't really cope with the gradient. After fiddling with snow chains and a fair bit of pushing, we got ourselves about halfway there. However, in view of the conditions and the possibility of everything icing up by night, we decided to turn the van around where we could and park back down near Leck village. By the time we were changed and heading back up it was starting to get dim - two miles of uphill walking carrying personal gear + rope bags doesn't do much for one's underground enthusiasm!

The most dangerous moment was probably reaching the entrance pitch - slippery snow steps directly above the drop until one could clip into the rope! The prerigged pitches were quickly dropped, and we started the search for Adamson's route, while Andy rigged Central.

Failing initially to climb up & turn back at the right point in the rift, we found our

way into a boulder collapse somewhere near the service. Turning back we heard mutterings from up and in front, which found us the derigging NPC party. Liberating their rope bags and saying our goodbyes, we started the rerig down. Timing with the central party was almost perfect, and we regrouped in heading down to the big pitches.

These were rigged by Andy with ease and a few slings, and we found ourselves on the comedy traverse to the large pitch next to the sump. I climbed up into the little passage on the left (as it was getting rather crowded, and it's rather warm up there). I thus had a particularly amusing perspective of Dan plunging up to his shoulders in an innocuous looking patch of water between the stones directly below the sump and the boulders around the lip of the sump.

Everyone was super quick on the way out, and we were timed nicely together meeting again at the head of central, and then bunching up for the entrance pitch which delivered us to the still air and snowy landscape of Leck fell. The visibility was absolutely stunning - the lights all the way down to the coast standing out clearly. We followed the GPS back to the road again, finding the snow covered heather rather easier on the way down.

Back at the van, the LJ crew were already changed and perhaps only moderately shivering. As we were clean and rather dry, we simply belted up while wearing full caving gear and were driven home by Dave. Martin had excelled himself in the NPC kitchen again, leaving us racing to change in the back room in order to get our dinner in.

Sunday:

Heavy snow so day spent learning knots and how to 'rig' a cave inside the caving hut. This caused great discussion amongst the more experienced members of the club and taught the newer members of the club the finer point of SRT. This provided vital training to increase experience and to prepare newer member of the club for expedition caving.

Monday:

Spending our snowed-in Sunday wisely we prepared for an obscene collection of megatrips. The trip planning got so complex that the 'G2 2010 Calendar' was put to use to construct a truth table of cave trips. The first version contained a 4x4 matrix of trips (including Flood) which then swelled to include Hensler's, before finally being reduced to a more sane 3x3 as Dave and Martin dropped out.

The minibus was slalom'd in the vague direction of Clapham, initially misdirected (by Tetley) into a cul-de-sac before being freed and skidded into the carpark. While getting ready it transpired that Andy had decoupled the two meticulously packed Stream bags and just taken one. So Martin did sterling service as taxi driver in rescuing the tackle, and the long arduous slog through the snow began.

The view was absolutely stunning, with a break in the snow and bright skies as we trudged through the snow and wandered past the icicles in the gorge. The going got rather more deep up on the Fell itself, with Clare and Jana sinking into their waists. The Thermos' were dispersed to the three cave entrances, and the Stream passage slogg'd off through the drifts.

Stream - Dis: Dan & Jarv

The entrance tube was issuing forth a warming fog of air. Quickly wriggling into a harness, we bombed down the entrance and into the warm bowels of the Earth (controversially, rigging the entrance tube with a rope - see Winter Tour 2008, the Tet incident). Rigging was pleasant on 9mm, slinging maillons between the interesting mix of Petzl stainless hangers and P-bolts. The traverse to gain the 2nd (underground) pitch is right up high in the roof, one of our comedy 16ft dyneema slings was put to use making a rope ladder for the following to use. From the bottom of the pitch and up on the large traverse ledges, a massive 2m y-hang (rigged with an alpine butterfly to allow easier gaining of the high traverse on the true left of the rift). Just 5m down is a comedy 'inverting' deviation with in-situ tat (arguably better as a free hanging rebelay), which pulls you one way to pass it, holding the rope clear, then turns over to prevent rope rub when below the massive sling of the lower rebelay. From here, a clamber over boulders (kind of above a 30m pitch) is passed. Having only the suggested 36m rope, initially rigging this with a traverse line off the obvious p-bolts resulted in a rope too-short incident & a quick bit of prussic'ing while the following cavers salvaged length from the traverse. As suggested by Andy, instead of using the pitch bolts to rig another comedy y-hang, a hang from the right hand wall followed by a 8ft deviation to the other p-bolt allowed a pleasant descent. Starting with a 45-50m and rigging the traverse might be more pleasant for the less sure on their feet.

Finding our way into the main system involved a bit of head scratching - it looks like you're walking along an enormous cavern, but the truth is rather more complex with lots of muddy sidechambers and places to loose ones way. Pushing down a particularly tight crawl, I came to a little chamber with something like: "BRADLY POT - REDISCOVERED 1984" written in stark angular carbide letters. We back-tracked, refound the draught, and quickly found ourselves along the dry muddy crawls and to the only well defined junction, with the digging skids still sitting there looking rather forlorn.

We yomped our way to the main chamber, tripping over William and Alex who were sitting in a little oxbow slightly out of the breeze nonchalantly munching sweets. Their progress down bar had been entirely without incident, except for the realisation that William did not have a croll (but a second 'basic' hand jammer instead), and William getting his long golden hair caught in his descender. Alex leant him his knife so that he could achieve a mid-rope trim, which only necessitated him loosing about half his pony tail.

We back tracked as far as the bottom of Bar Pot, where the pretty young things kept warm in the nice still dry air, while the gluttons for punishment threw themselves down the body-sized slick tube exiting the other half of the bar pitch on the left hand side. This immediately gained a pleasurable low streamway with dark waters gently drifting over flat cobbles. Initially we headed 'Right' upstream (in as much as it can be determined with such low flow), but were turned back after about 15m as Andy found himself properly grovelling in a flat squeeze and not seeing any way on nor particularly liking it. He backed himself out slowly via pull-ups with his toes, and we progressed in reverse order downstream.

DanG grumbled that the way on wasn't very pleasant, but it was certainly continuing and after ten minutes of crawling we could hear voices! Andy, who was heading back to Bar anyway, decided to stop in a little chamber. Dan and Jarv, egged on by Tetley's mutterings pushed forwards at water level, which soon turned into a flat out crawl in water, and then into some rather curious passage where one's chin scoured out a groove in the mud for one's chest which then scooped out sufficient space for one's hips. Surfacing the other side rather worse for wear (and with horrible gritty mud in

every glove, oversuit pocked, srt gear and orifice), we tripped over the stone barrier indicating not to go down there, and were faced with Andy's voice issuing from the obvious dry crawly bypass to our left. Amusing, on the small scale survey back at the NPC, the wet section we had passed wasn't even joined up.

It turned out the Disappointment lot had been wandering around down here for quite some time. They had originally been at this junction an hour ago, but had decided that both ways looked too grim to be the way on. Being enterprising, they had then spent the last hour crawling down almost every bit of Hensler's horror sections, turning back each time just shy of the breakthrough into other parts of the system, or when the going got unpleasantly tough. However, they did report that Hensler's stream passage was rather nice.

At this point we said our goodbyes, and Dan and I headed out Dis. The climb up to the right at the big boulder was fairly obvious, leading quickly via a small climb to the first rope. These bottom two pitches followed each other quickly and were in a really very nice high chamber, connected via a narrow bit of sinuous streamway. Looking back down from the 4th pitch head was pretty cool - nice place for a photo!

The rift connected the 3rd and 4th pitches was quite long and fairly slow going with tackle. The obvious climb up from the water level reached a boulder-rubble filled chamber, which then lead on to a rather disappointing aven. From here on the going was rather more crawl tastic, flipping the tackle bag in front or dragging it with twisted shoulders. The 3rd pitch was another nice little number, and was followed by more rift until reaching the 1st/2nd cascades. At the top of the first pitch, the tackle was stashed and we mentally prepared ourselves for the ducks. In an odd way these had been hanging over our enjoyment of what is really a very nice bit of cave - each pitch derigged took us closer. The walking passage from the top of the 1st quickly degrades into a stoop and then the water, quickly reaching the portcullis. Tackled head first on one's back, with arms along side, this was a spacious and quick little wriggle with plenty of air space. Tobacco and cameras were carefully passed through, the main bags floated on, and then the frigid winter water enjoyed.

The experience wasn't really bad at all - quite refreshing really. The wet crawl guarding the entrance was more of an ordeal - rather choked with rubble and with little airspace, I went through with helmet on one side getting an earful of freezing water. The ceiling is a slab of rock that dips down before finally passing on the far side and arriving in the graffiti filled entrance cave. Quickly wringing out the chests of our furies, we powered our way out through the lovely rift, finding it rather tough with the weight of our clothing and sheer slipperiness of our water lubricated wellies and oversuits. The climb was surpassed, and the rather useless bit of 9mm rigged off the p-bolt removed. The little entrance chamber was actually a bit chilly, as Dis seems to either slightly suck in, or at least have so little draught that the air mixes in the entrance.

At this point we found our thermos of hot blackcurrant squash, which was mainly sipped by Jarv as he watched Dan prepare a freshly rolled cigarette - "Not because I want one, but because after having taken all this gear so far I feel it deserves it". This was a rather long winded process as wet fingers saw goodbye to a good few rizlas, then extraneous drips of water destroying successive rolling attempts. Particularly amusing was a single drip off the helmet destroying a nearly perfect attempt by blowing a hole in the Rizla. Then the attempts to suitably dry out and get sparking the cigarette lighter began, which after much flint, cursing and disassembly resulted in a successful smoke.

We then shot off for Clapham, scrunching our way across the snowed in

landscape. It was rather chilly, and being absolutely soaked we didn't have time to stand around. Back at the bus we were rather surprised to discover that we were the only team back. Cracking the ice off the stalwart UZX, we were getting changed in the back when a pickup truck cruised up alongside in the deserted carpark and a jackbooted figure climbed out, coming up to drivers window. We were expecting a dogging enquiry, but it merely turned out to be Martin offering his services as 4x4 driver. Fully changed, we were back at the NPC ten minutes later, warming our frozen toes in front of the fire while enjoying a delicious curry.

The Bar team (swelled to 5 members) and Stream (down to 3) got back to Clapham simultaneously, and were both back within the hour.

Remaining Days:

The remaining days had to severe weather and as such planned trips were canceled. With the club snowed in on a couple of days no planned activity was carried out on those days. Despite this, training such as that discussed on Sunday continued to be given and because of this we were able to stick to our aims and objectives. Not only this we were able to carry out a number of other events such as hiking in the snow and orienteering exercises.

Financial Status

The financial status of the tour is good. We have followed the budget as proposed in the tour application and funding given to us has been spent to try and reduce the costs to the students.

Aims and Objectives

The tour allowed some of our aims and objectives to be achieved. The new members of the club were trained in preparation of expedition caving and enabled them to hone their skills. We were also able to run trips to caves that due to length and seriousness of the undertaking, as well as restricted land access arrangements are unavailable in a normal weekend trip.

However, due to the adverse weather we were not able to accomplish as much caving as planned. Caving is a weather dependant sport and as such we are at the mercy of the elements. Over the time that we had available because of the weather we were not able to provide as many trips as planned. Despite this the rest of our objectives were reached and the decrease in the amount of caving that we planned to carry out was not a severe detriment to the club.

Changes

As mentioned above there were small changes to the planned activities and the aims and objectives of the trip. Due to the weather we could not carry out as much caving as planned. Out of the possible six days of caving we only managed to carry out our original plans on two of them. This caused us to rely on back up plans, such as training in rope technique and familiarity of knots.

However, because of the extreme severity of the weather we were not able to follow all back up plans and this caused us to come up with some alternate activities

during the time spent on tour. Some of these included walks in the snow (which we had equipment for in case weather got worse and as some of our members were planning to carry out such activities after the tour) as well as more sedate activities such as board games.

Major Issues

As mentioned a number of times the only issues that arose was the bad weather. Although we had prepared for such weather (acquiring snow chains, etc.) the weather was so severe that we were not able to continue with some of our planned events.

Improvements

An improvement that could be made would be to have better contingency plans for bad weather. Although caving is a weather dependent activity and we cannot continue with it in bad weather more thought could be put into alternate activities. We coped well with the problems we had and were able to continue with our aims and objectives (although in ways we had not considered when we started the tour). However, with more thought put to this problem we may come up with better ways of fulfilling our aims despite the setback of bad weather.

Despite this, as mentioned, caving is a weather dependant activity and if the weather is as severe as it was over the winter tour then there is not much more we can do to improve the chances of completing our planned activities.

Photos

Images from the tour can be found at:

http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/caving/photo_archive/tours/2009%20-%20yorkshire%20winter/dirindex.html

However, a selection are shown below.









Exploration Society Winter Tour Report

Dates: 20-28 Feb 2010

Destination: Rjukan, Norway

Attendees, Full members:

Boris Korzh
Robin Jones
James Cowley
Jonathan Hazell

Additional Attendees:

Neil Dowse (Life Member of the Union)

Aims of the Tour

The tour was undertaken to fulfil point 2b of the Exploration Society's constitution, allowing members to obtain hands on experience of the necessary skills to operate in difficult environment. By attending this tour the participants were able to further their ice and mixed climbing skills at an intermediate and advanced level, thus enabling them to have the necessary skills to go on and organise expeditions in the greater ranges. Members from different clubs and societies were able to meet for the first time and climb together, thus establishing contacts for future expedition participants. Less experienced members were able to learn new skills from the older members.

Tour Activities

20th - Arrival

The desire to have a full day to travel from the airport upon arrival in Norway and to settle down in the accommodation, led to a very early start on Saturday morning with a couple of members almost missing the bus to Stansted airport. In Oslo, the tour was greeted with some truly Norwegian weather, snowdrifts on the runway and temperatures of around -16! This was actually rather unusual for the time of year,



*Boris and Jonathan admire a roadside Ice Fall,
Svingfoss W14*

leaving the streets deserted as the locals opted for the warmth of their homes. Nevertheless, armed with lots of warm clothing, the hired Blue Motion VW Golf was loaded and the group set off for Rjukan.

After 3 hours of careful driving along some icy roads, the town of Rjukan was reached, where it was possible to check out some road side ice crags. These magnificent ice falls soon took the mind off the cold and everyone looked forward to the first day of the ice climbing adventures. Before setting off for our accommodation, which was about 20 minutes away from the centre of Rjukan, a shopping trip was in order. This very soon turned into scouring the local supermarkets for products which didn't require a mortgage. Finally it was realised that not all was lost and that survival was possible by feeding on a range of fish products including Fiskerpinner (fish fingers), Fiskergereteng (macaroni fish mash) and what came to be called Block Fish.

A pleasant surprise was waiting upon arrival at Sandviken Camping on the north side of Lake Tinnsjø, where a 5 bed basic log cabin was booked. In fact this was upgraded to two cabins, one of which had a TV, due to some electrical faults with the original cabin. This provided entertainment in the form of the Winter Olympics each evening.

21st - Introduction at Lower Gorge

On the first morning the trend was set for pre-sunrise starts for the rest of the week and after some initial equipment organisation the group eagerly set off for a visit of the Lower Gorge. This area offered a gentle introduction to climbing in the Rjukan area and had an atmosphere of a cragging venue. This was a great place for members who hadn't previously led on ice to do so, since many of the waterfalls are relatively easy with reliable ice.

Due to the persistently low temperatures, the ice was very brittle and was prone to what is known as 'dinner plating'; where the ice breaks off in dinner plate like pieces upon ice axe impact. Despite of this, the confidence of all members grew rapidly and by the end of the day everyone had succeeded in completing at least 4 routes in the range of WI2-WI4 (Water Ice) and two members who hadn't led on ice previously did so. The day was concluded with an ascent of the areas classic route, Hjemreisen WI4.



Boris on Leading Trippel WI4

22nd - Ambition of Multipitch

Whilst the levels of energy were still very high, the group decided to make an attempt at some multipitch ice routes. Neil and Boris headed for the areas longest icefall, Gausta Marathon, which rises majestically 17 pitches above the centre of Rjukan. Robin, James and Jonathan would try their luck at the areas classic 7 pitch Fabrikfossen.

The trio were dropped off at their starting location whilst the duet headed to find the walk in for the Marathon. Following the guidebook exactly they found themselves standing below an expanse of sloped forest, holding thigh high quantities of snow. After some extensive searching for the non existing path, a commitment was made to break trail up the hill. However two gruelling hours later, it was decided that the plan was flawed and it was best to return to the car and head for Krokan, an area popular for its extensive range of single pitch routes.



Robin Leading pitch 2 of Fabrikfossen WI3

Multipitch success was not to be had by the second group either as their only managed to complete 3 of the 7 pitches. This was due to them ending up on a line which had to be swept clear of snow before some low quality ice was found. However this proved to be a valuable and very enjoyable experience for them and this would not be the last multipitch encounter of the week.

23rd - The Full Krokan Experience

After a very tiring day, the tour headed to Krokan for a supposedly relaxed day. This involved Boris and Neil ascending a very demanding route called Topp WI5 and then everyone rinsing the remains of their energy whilst top topping the famous Fission M10. This introduced the majority of the members into the wonders of mixed climbing. Very soon however, the group retired, happy and tired, back to the cabin for some tea and Olympics.



James, Jonathan and Robin explore some interesting Ice formations at Krokan.

24th – The Overwhelming Upper Gorge

After a much needed, lengthy recovery sleep, a visit to Rjukan's premium destination was in order. The steep surrounding walls of the Upper Gorge ensure that the place has a unique atmosphere which for some may feel claustrophobic, but for most it just adds to the incredible climbing experience. This was the first time any of the members visited the Upper Gorge and it proved to be truly magnificent.

Robin, James and Jonathan once again teamed up and headed for a 3 pitch Lettvann WI2. All went well on this day, with everyone taking a turn in leading a pitch. Very conveniently this route topped out almost right next to the road side ice fall, investigated on the first day, Svingfoss WI4, which Robin managed to successfully lead by the end of the day.

In the mean time Neil and Boris, infused by the quality of the routes in the gorge, embarked on an epic day completing three multipitch routes. These included the classic Bakveien WI4, which tops out directly below Vermok, the Norwegian Industrial Worker Museum.



Panoramic photograph of the Rjukan Valley, with Vermok towering above the Upper Gorge.

25th - Kong Vinter Area

This area was situated very near to the accommodation, which allowed for a slightly later start. Due to its location away from the main climbing areas of Rjukan, it provided a much more tranquil and remote environment to climb in, with the majority of the ice remaining untouched. To gain entry to the crag, it was required to abseil into the small gorge and exit could only be gained by climbing a minimum of 2 pitches of WI3. Due to this the day had an atmosphere of a more committing outing which was relished by all members.

By this point in the week, the temperatures began to rise to much more bearable values of around -6, which improved the quality of the ice greatly and it was finally possible to shed a little bit of the clothing.

It was discovered that a large number of possible routes out of the gorge were not present in the relatively new guide book. With this in mind Robin and Neil leaped at the chance to attempt what could well be a first ascent at about WI4. Meanwhile James and Boris took alternate leads on the most prominent line of the crag, Kong Vinter WI4, with Jonathan seconding both pitches. This route gave rise to both committing and sustained climbing, with James putting in a very confident performance during his hardest lead so far on the first pitch.

On route back to the car, the group stopped off at some steep ice formations near the road to practice some technical ice climbing techniques at low heights.

26th - Return to the Upper Gorge

Neil and Boris were keen to complete an ascent of one of Rjukan's best known classics, Sabotorfossen WI5, in the Upper Gorge. So a second visit was made by the group, although James remained at the hut to complete some work. Robin and Jonathan opted to climb another of the gorge's wonderful formation in the form of Tracy's Eyes WI3, upon the competition of which they wandered to the end of the gorge to get inspired by some of Rjukan's hardest and impressive ice falls. Sabotorfossen proved to be an incredible experience, contrasting in each pitch and providing some of the hardest and technical ice climbing that both Neil and Boris had completed previously.

27th - Multipitch Glory

Being the seventh day of tour, this would be the last full day available for climbing before the return to the UK. Upon Jonathan's decision to take a rest day, the remaining four members returned to the previously unconquered 7 pitch Fabrikfossen WI3. Neil and Boris opted to practice some fast simul-climbing techniques, which are often used in Alpine climbing on very long routes. This allowed them to complete the ascent in an astonishing 90 minutes, with the abseil decent taking a further 60 minutes. The rest of the day was spent relaxing in the car, playing poker, whilst waiting for the others. Robin and James opted for a traditional style of ascent, by pitching each section one at a time and were able to complete the route comfortably before the end of the day. True sense of achievement was sensed by both parties upon completion of this magnificent ice formation.

28th - Fission

On the last day, the group allowed themselves a well deserved lie in after a week of great achievements, and it must be known, very early starts. A swift clean up of the cabins followed the extended breakfast and everyone was ready to leave. Before returning to the airport, the group visited Krokan one last time to drain any remaining energy with some technical mixed climbing. Robin managed to set a new high point on Fission, about half way up the route, a target that was set at the start of the week. All members are hoping for a full ascent of this magnificent route some day.

The journey back to the UK passed with no hiccups and everyone made it back safe and sound late in the evening of 28th Feb.



James on form, on Fission M10



*Neil topping out on Two Assholes and
Five Nice Bolts M6*

Finances

Expenditure Description	Amount
Flights (each)	£48.98
Hire Car	£557.25
Accommodation	£645.58
Food	£130.13
Diesel	£76.50
Other	£71.03

The total cost of the tour for each member was £345.08. The exact cost of the tour has been paid by each member of the tour. Other expenses included excess car insurance and purchase of lost equipment after the tour.

Tour Conclusion

The tour proved to be a great success with climbing made possible on each day and all of the participants enjoying the entire time incredibly. All of the initial aims of the tour were fulfilled, with all of the members learning new skills and experiencing ice climbing in a great environment. All of the participants were left infused about ice and mixed climbing and now possess the knowledge and desire to take part in and organise climbing expeditions in the greater ranges.

Fellwanderers Winter Tour by Andrew Elliott

On the 27th of December with stomachs still bulging from our Christmas dinners, 11 Fellwanderers set off to brave Scotland in the worst cold snap in living memory. After paying the handling charge to retrieve our beloved driver Rafal from storage in Luton; we then headed north to pick up the last two members of our party in the snowy paradise that is Darlington. We expected a quick turnaround, instead we found our 'fluid planner' planning every single meal down to the gram, constructing pretty shopping lists ('the bordering must be perfect') and making a recipe book with calls of 'it will just be a minute' or 'why not go and look at the chickens'. The annoyance was mitigated somewhat by the cakes baked kindly by Heather, who probably knew this was going to happen.

Then, after many frozen roads we reached Glasgow where we were to pick up the last member of our party. After half an hour driving round Glasgow, with cries of 'We aren't lost', we gave in and had fish and chips. Disappointingly this chippy had no battered mars bars, disobeying all laws of Scottish cuisine. Then miraculously Yvonne turned up. Our group was now complete and we were ready to start our epic journey to the snow covered north.

We got our first views of the West Highlands driving past Loch Lomond and driving through the famous Glencoe. We arrived at the bunkhouse at 10:30, after a 13 hour drive. However, in the greatest traditions of Imperial, rather than going to sleep we decided to start drinking. Nathaniel, after drinking $\frac{1}{4}$ of a bottle of nice whisky, decided that it was a good time to start the 3 peaks challenge. For those who don't know, the 3 peaks challenge is to climb the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales in 24 hours. He was almost out of the door before we convinced him that this wasn't a good idea. He then for the next hour claimed that Alex was his and that we couldn't have him. We then all went to bed slight bemused, but sort of ready to brave whatever Scotland threw at us.

After little sleep and no hangover on behalf of Nathaniel (the man is a machine) we started our first day. We got up at 7 and start walking at 8, to maximise the 7 or so hours of daylight. After a short drive in the minibus, we started on the first hike of the trip, a nice horse shoe around a ridge. We started on a nice gentle path, then using the 'right to roam' land to its full awesomeness, cut our way up a steep slope in the snow using the ice axes and poles to their full extent. After this fun ascent we annoyed one of our most favourite Fellwanderers Raf by apparently going too quickly. Aww diddums. He then wouldn't talk to us for an hour afterwards, so Ande decided to hug him to 'show him how much he cared' which annoyed him more, which I think was the point.

After this effort we felt a break was in order, we stopped at the top of the hill admiring the awesome views of Ben Nevis in the snow (and considering how amazing it would be as a backdrop for a centre fold). We had a snow ball fight at the top of the hill, and wrestled in the snow, (no gayness involved honest). Then we continued along the ridge in snow varying between several inches and 2 feet. Whilst waiting for everyone to catch up, Ande while learning to map read ('I'm sure there should be a forest around here') decided that putting a plastic map case on an icy slope was a good idea. It slid all the way down the hill we had just climbed, and he had to run down to retrieve it while everyone fell around laughing.

Continuing on we climbed the pinnacle and continued to our first Munro (special Scottish mountain above 3000 feet) Stob Ban. On the way down from Stob Ban we had our first survival bagging of the trip. For those uninitiated in the ways of the Fellwanderer, this involves taking a thick plastic orange sack, that you can sleep in if you get stuck in the mountains, and using it as a sledge. Unfortunately the snow was too powdery and we didn't get very much speed on the slopes. Progressing around

the horseshoe we climbed another Munro, Mullach Coirean, then descending into a forest. The sun was setting and with a howl from the north, the first monster of our trip emerged, a Polish person with a new head torch. Rafal took large amounts of enjoyment from blinding anyone at the wrong place at the wrong time, (working on the principle When Mister Head torch is not On, Then Mister head torch Is Not Your Friend)

Getting back to the bunkhouse we enjoyed the first of many Morrison's-based meals with their yellow goodness. For southerners who have never visited a Morrison's before, their basics range has yellow stickers and can be pretty dire. Luckily we had the excellent chef, Heather, (who certainly didn't forget that we needed to eat everyday on last year's summer tour) in charge and so the Spag bol worked out very well. Our pet vegetarian and president Alex even said to everyone's surprise that veggie mince (that you have to boil rather than fry!) was nice.

After our rather epic first day we decided to do something that in Alex's words was low level, so we started very low and ended up at the summit of the seventh highest mountain in the UK. After a short minibus ride we set off walking, and ignoring the danger sign on the side of the path we proceeded along an icy track through a forest. Emerging from the forest we walked through a valley admiring the snow covered hills on either side of us. We climbed up to the foot hills of Aonach Beag with cries of 'They are taking the hobbits to Isenguard', (if anyone only thinks of the Tolkien quote and not the YouTube video, Google it! Do it now!) We then traversed around a smaller hill to get to the saddle point of Aonach Beag. However we didn't realise that the hill was so slippery. So even with ice axes several people required help from the cramponed Nathaniel to get them across. We stopped for lunch at the saddle only to realise that the smaller hill we were going around had been protecting us from the bitter wind which started flicking up powder snow into our faces. Then after the shortest lunch in the history of man, we set off on what Nathaniel called the 'final ascent' to Aonach Beag. We got about 50 metres up the next slope before we lost 4 people to the cold.

It was hard to let them go, they didn't actually die they just got cold and went back to the bus but saying we lost people just sounds more epic. Continuing up we cut our own path up the slope as following the path under the snow was impossible. Ande made the mistake of following the Nathaniel in his crampons up the slope it was fine until the snow thinned too much to get a grip in walking boots. Nathaniel continued straight on in the crampons gripping on the ice GREAT SUCCESS! Ande managed to backtrack and we ended up on the ridge that contained the peak. We continued to the top and were rewarded with awesome views of the winter wonderland that surrounded us. We then descended survival bagging as often as walking until we reached the saddle. Alex had a geek moment running over to a piece of what everyone assumed was grass sticking out of the snow. He then started talking really fast about how this plant was adapted to surviving being covered in snow, and that he loved it and wanted its babies. So watch out Thea, you may be replaced by a shrub. He started taking lots of photos "for the cover of his presentation" apparently! Continuing down we reached the icy sections in the dark, convincing ourselves that moonlight was better than torches. After a few falls we made it back to the bus to find the 4 who succumbed to the cold earlier wandering around the bus in a vain attempt to keep warm.

With ice on the roads there was a few worried looks from the Fellwanderers as the bus skidded around corners. Applying the same logic as earlier the lights on the bus were deemed optional and coming very close to a cliff certainly did not have anything to do with this; however with Nathaniel's excellent driving skills we managed to get back to the hut in one piece. We finished the day with another excellent meal of bangers and mash, followed by more of Heather's cake (cutting it with several impressive rebounds from a spear).

The fourth day was our rest day, with an optional walk to see the north face of Ben Nevis from Coire Leis. As a testament to the Fellwanderers or possibly because of the pictures of the face on the walls of the kitchen, all but 4 did this epic walk. We started from the hut and walked up to the saddle of Ben Nevis. Once we hit the saddle we were hit by strong wind throwing powder snow in our faces, so much so that we had to face the other way when the wind gusted. We then traversed around to get into the valley of the north face. Once we got there the strong winds intensified funnelled through the valley and made walking more difficult. It went so far that Ande came up with the brilliant idea to put his scarf (buff) around his face in order to protect it. The slight problem of not being able to see very much was apparently not an issue, though after a few falls he stopped... Continuing along the valley we noticed a flare going up on the north face and a rescue helicopter flying over to it. Thinking there must be a training exercise on the mountain we continued on losing the path in the deep snow. Alex started making a new path through the snow for us all to follow; suddenly we all heard a loud crack as the ice under Alex boots broke, leaving him in a foot of icy water. Then Chris thinking he had found a better path through, also sunk into the water. Apparently even in frozen Scotland we cannot get away from the Bogwanders. Several other people crossed safely, helped in part by Ande finding a route to the right. Then Heather came along, despite the footprints being clearly marked, and still somehow managed to end up with water in her trousers (which I have on good authority was still better than the usual ruffraff that gets in there). We reached the hut on the North Face which was disappointingly closed and admired Alex and Chris and Heathers frozen trousers. We then had an Imperial moment discussing what the wind turbines on top of the hut would be doing with all the energy, with the hut closed for the winter. Only at IMPERIAL! We came back along the other side of the valley walking right alongside the north face through some very deep snow. Yvonne found this section particularly hard as the snow was almost up to her chest and had to be helped through a few sections.

Coming down from the saddle we met several people on the first few slopes of the climb, clearly unprepared for what was ahead. We kindly warned them that no water or warm layers with 3 hours of daylight left to reach the saddle point (a climb that had taken us about an hour and a half with our kit) was probably not a sensible idea. When we finally reached the hut and got changed, we found Ande taking stock of the kitchen. Despite getting there a lot earlier than everyone else he still wasn't finished making shopping lists. Alex, amid protests from Heather and Ande, claimed he knew exactly what to buy. This seemed to amount to needing 'lots of hand waving' amounts of potatoes, pasta and other food. So with pained looks from the physicists and mathematicians we set off to Fort William for our afternoon off. We had 3 hours to relax there. However other than the gun shop, where as the urban myth goes, if you go at the right time of the day wearing a red cloak, they will sell you claymores, there really was nothing to do. We all eventually ended up in the Morrison's café, while Alex, Ande and Heather shopped, finding that Alex's hand waving actually meant he had no idea. . Alex, frustrated with instructions from Ande such as 'We need 1.125kg of rice' wandered off on his own to find the Haggis. Nathaniel bought two more bottles of Whisky.

We also had to say goodbye to Yvonne that day as she was going to meet some of her friends for New Years. She was replaced by a new Fellwanderer convert an out activity instructor called Beccy, whom Alex knew from a holiday sometime somewhere, not really sure what the link was, but a nice person none the less. Getting back we discovered to our delight that the veggie meal planned had been cancelled and replaced by Fajitas. Unfortunately everyone had already pre-eaten expecting a vegetarian meal, and so didn't manage to finish the most innovative meal of the trip! After the meal we chatted to some of the other people staying in the bunkhouse, to discover that the helicopters we had seen earlier had been called to try to rescue a party of 3 climbers on the north face. Only one made it back alive and it was a sobering to think how quickly the mountains can turn against people who were less than a ½ a kilometre from us.

Waking up the next day we found something rather curious. Someone had covered our bus with kitchen roll and buried the front wheels in the snow. We first suspected that it was a prank from some of the people we had become friendly with from the bunkhouse. However later on that day we received a text from Rachel Fox from canoe club claiming responsibility for this act of terrorism. However, despite Rachel being minibus assessor for the union, she didn't realise that the buses are rear wheel drive. So covering the front wheels was completely pointless and we just drove straight through the snow, GREAT SUCCESS! After scraping the frozen kitchen roll off the bus we then set off driving to the same place we started the first walk. We followed the same route for the first half mile looking at the steep hill we had climbed earlier, thinking about how much worse it looked now the snow had been blown off it. Continuing on the path, we met a group of 4 London lads, who despite having good gear were moving very slowly for such a small group. We ended up spending the next 2 miles or so walking either just in front or just behind this group, trying to find the nonexistent path in the snow.

Upon reaching the top of the valley, we had the most epic survival bagging session of the trip. We started on a slope near the top, but when the wind started blowing powder snow in our faces we moved half a mile, down to a lower slope, and started again. On the last run of the slope Ande was coming down when Alex, Chris and Nathaniel started throwing snowballs, which then degenerated into a snow wrestling match. This, I must point out, despite being described as 'erotic snow play' by certain members of the party, was completely heterosexual. The snowball fight continued down the next hill, and ended when Alex carried a large lump of ice down the hill which Nathaniel (after several goes) head butted into several pieces. We then followed the West Highland Way along for several miles, going through a forest in the dark ending up on a hill side overlooking the lights of the bustling metropolis that is Fort William. We meandered down to a road to be picked up by the minibus. Getting back we had Haggis, neeps and tatties to the enjoyment of all.

We then started our New Years Eve party; Chris, Alex and Nathaniel became improvised Scotsmen by constructing kilts out of survival bags and towels and running around shouting FREEDOM! We then started a game of 'Fellwanderers' ring of fire. This turned into less of a drinking session and more into a cross dressing party, ending up with Chris wearing a tight top and pants, and Ande in a low cut top and leopard skin leggings. To make things more fun on a dare card Ande had to strut through the bunkhouse; where several other guests were staying, singing 'it's raining men', while everyone else fell around laughing. We then went to the pub above our bunkhouse, and continued drinking and playing 'never have I ever' for several hours. During the game certain male members of our party, who shall not be named (and certainly weren't having erotic snow play earlier) decided to have a make out session in the middle of a crowded Scottish bar. I can confirm there was TONGUE involved! This was made worse as many of the other people in the bunkhouse, who had seen the cross dressing, were also in the bar. Several butch men started staring at our group, and comments were made around us. Luckily New Years came and everyone got distracted by the countdown and afterwards didn't seem to remember. With the new year seen in we all headed back to the bunkhouse, with the more extreme people staying up to continue ring of fire. We were joined by an awesome Scottish guy, who traded our President Alex's jeans for a kilt, and I can confirm for all of our female readers that he did go full Scottish, swinging his underwear around his head before throwing it away Full Monty style. The game continued to a while with large amounts of good whisky mixed with 'olde English' cider being consumed by all until we all stumbled off to bed.

The next day the plan was to climb Ben Nevis and be the highest hung-over people in the country. However our President, who by Fellwanderer decree makes the porridge on winter tour, decided to not to get up. He did, however, leave his alarm on to annoy everyone in the group, until both Ande and Raf had to turn it off. (He cannot turn off an alarm while hung-over, but turning it back on seems to be no problem!) With our president down we felt unable to continue. So Nathaniel 'the machine' Bottrell got up early and made us an amazing *looks both ways in case of Scotsman* English breakfast, the greatest hangover cure in the world. We then split into 3 groups, one group did a river walk, ending up in a pub where we waited the previous day, enjoying hot chocolate, Ande and

Heather did a short walk into Fort William, and our beloved president stayed in bed all day recovering from his pains. Towards the end of the day we managed to convince him that there was more to the world than his duvet, and he joined us for dinner and more drinks. Due to our presidents illness (vegetarianism not being hung-over), we finished the day with our sole veggie meal Cous Cous, to Chris's displeasure (smrt' vegetariánom).

On the last hiking day of the trip we finally managed to make it up Ben Nevis, we flew up the first few sections that we had walked before to the saddle. As we were climbing the next few sections the clouds moving in around us giving us brief glimpses of the amazing panorama around us. We reached the top in good time, and had first lunch there. Nathaniel brought up beer to the top and had the highest can of beer in the UK. Then coming down we had our traditional banner shot. We reached the saddle early and decided to do a bit more walking. Rafal clearly sick of the company of these pesky undergrads decided to go back to the bunkhouse leaving the rest of the group. With a tear in our eyes for our lost comrade we climbed Meall an t-Suide which is on the Ben Nevis ridge. Sitting on the summit Gavin decided to carve Fellwanderers out of the snow as a testament to the awesomeness of the trip. However his ambitions were too great for his skill with an ice axe, and he only managed to carve out FW, which we left on the summit. We then descended back to the hut our last hike of the trip complete. Getting back to the hut we started preparing food. We soon discovered that Heather as per her previous performance in the Tatras had completely forgotten about a veggie option for the last meal. My advice for anyone on another trip with her, just tell her the trip is one day longer than it is! Luckily between Ande and Heather they managed to create a stuffed pepper with salad from the left over ingredients that Alex apparently really liked. We then stayed up talking and packing away our stuff for the early get away tomorrow.

I would just like to thank all of the people that made this trip amazing; Alex who did an excellent job organising this trip; Heather who did an fantastic job with the food; the minibus drivers, and quite frankly everyone for putting up with me. I regret i cannot mention everyone by name in article. We all really enjoyed this trip and I hope you enjoyed reading about it and I hope to see you on a Fellwanderers trip in the future!



Outdoor Club Winter Tour 2009-10

Report compiled by Philip Leadbeater

Dates: 2nd-10th January 2010

Location: Cairngorms National Park, Scotland

Aims and Objectives of the Tour

The primary purpose of this tour (dependent upon conditions) was to enable the more experienced members of the club to pass on their knowledge of Scottish Winter climbing to novices within the club. Experienced members aimed to increase their own skill level. In both instances this tour was intended to provide experience that will aid preparation for high altitude alpine mountaineering.

Scottish Winter climbing as a discipline involves assessment of weather and snow conditions, technical climbing and often difficult navigation.

Subsidiary objectives were to (dependent upon conditions) take part in skiing disciplines including alpine downhill and both Nordic and Alpine ski-touring.

The effect of unusual weather during winter 2009-10

Between mid-December 2009 and mid-January 2010 the UK, and in particular the East Highlands of Scotland experienced persistently low temperatures and heavy snowfall. The amount of snowfall that occurred within the Cairngorms National Park was reported to be the highest seen at that time of year for approximately 20 years. Throughout this period diurnal temperatures remained below freezing at all altitudes, preventing melt-freeze metamorphism within the snowpack – a process that is required to provide stable snow that is safe to travel and climb on. Without this process the snow retained a powder form, characteristic of Nordic and North American mountain environments

It was clear in the week leading up to this tour that the Northern Corries of the Cairngorms were being filled with large deposits of unconsolidated and unstable powder snow – as reported by the Scottish Avalanche Information Service and various local mountain guides. Deep unconsolidated snow is very difficult to travel through without snowshoes or, ideally, skis. In addition, unconsolidated snow on angled ground is liable to avalanche. Consequently, the avalanche risk in the Northern Corries remained High in the week leading up to, and the week of this tour. Such dangerous conditions made climbing in these areas an unacceptable risk – which greatly influenced the activities completed on this tour.

Tour successes/ Activities:

The following activities took place on this tour –

- Water Ice climbing
- Downhill skiing
- Nordic ski-touring
- Alpine ski-touring/ski-mountaineering

Snow-shoeing
Winter walking
Navigation in difficult (white-out) conditions
Cooking vast quantities of haggis, neeps and tatties

It was possible to climb at a large icefall, close to the road at Creagh Dubh, just outside of Newtonmore. This popular area rarely sees such good condition as persistent freezing temperatures are required for the ice to form stable and climbable structures. Water Ice climbing at low elevation is atypical in the UK and is more akin to Alpine and Scandanavian areas.

With the main climbing areas inaccessible the primary tour objective could only partially be met and so attention turned to the subsidiary objectives of the tour. The abnormal weather conditions provided excellent, and unexpected, sport in the form of downhill and Nordic (cross-country) skiing. Cairngorm Mountain ski centre reported that snow conditions were the best for at least two decades and the large deposits of snow in the glens turned all tracks into Nordic ski trails. Whilst skiing one such trail 8 club members were filmed by the BBC, and for the rest of the day accompanied the 'Freezing Britain' headline on national news bulletins.

Finances

There are no outstanding financial issues for this tour.

Union and IC Trust subsidy per member £65

There was no contribution from the club SGI

Adverse events

No adverse events occurred during this tour. The deep snow was challenging to drive in, and made it easy to get the minibus stuck. Snow chains were useful, although in future it may be advisable to take a spare set as we found the fastenings to be unreliable.

Feedback from members

The feedback on the tour was positive.

Future improvements

If we are to visit the Cairngorms again under similar snow/temperature conditions we will benefit from the knowledge we have gained of alternative climbing areas.

Snowshoes and skis are a major aid to travel in these conditions and it would be desirable to have these available in future.

Photos

The following pages contain a selection of some photos from this tour

Statement of thanks and the wider implications of tours

The authors, on behalf of Imperial College Union Outdoor Club, would like to express their thanks to the IC Trust and Imperial College Union for their continued support of student activities. With your help we have been able to promote the development of hillwalking, climbing and mountaineering within the Imperial College community.

This tour marked the start of ICUOC's 65th year as a student society of Imperial College. Throughout the remainder of 2010 we hope to build upon the strengths of the club and will once again have club members on a first ascents mountaineering expedition in the Greater Ranges. These members were introduced to mountaineering through the clubs programme of Winter and Summer mountaineering tours.

Philip Leadbeater
January 2010

Ski Mountaineering













DE LA BECHE CLUB

ISLE OF WIGHT TOUR REPORT

AUTUMN 2009

DATES OF TOUR:

Friday 30th October – Sunday 1st November

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

34 in total, all full members of the club from the Earth Sciences Department of Imperial College. Please see accompanying list.

THE TOUR:

We departed from the RSM foyer at 1pm on Friday the 30th after having a spot of lunch on the steps and packing up the minibuses. In the minibus on the way to Southampton we listened and danced to Phil Collins and Cheryl Cole; we arrived early at the port and managed to get on an earlier ferry. The ride over was blustery, after getting off we embarked on the first of several visits to Morrison's to grab some food and supplies for the next few days. We arrived at the accommodation; unpacked, before the committee went and grabbed fish and chips for the rest of the group. As it was very dark and late when we arrived on the island, we did not have the opportunity to do any geology during the late afternoon, so we went out to socialise and enjoy the island's evening entertainment...

We set off via taxi for 'Colonel Bogeys' nightclub but several members of the trip had forgotten appropriate footwear which led to us being denied entry, so we settled for the bar on the corner named 'The Jolly Roger'. The pub was empty and we instantly claimed control – we made several song requests to the DJ and had a great time dancing and chatting until closing time.

The following morning we were up early to drive to the western side of the island. We stopped for cooked breakfast at Morrison's and then continued on what proved to be a very very long journey! After some poor navigation from the passengers in the front rows combined with encountering only roads suitable for narrow cars or those which were closed, we spent a longer time getting to Hanover point than planned or expected. However, the weather was beautiful and we walked down the cliff and along the beach. We searched for preserved *Iguanodon* footprints approximately 140 million years old along the shoreline and everyone sat whilst we explained the history of the area and how the footprints had been preserved. The south west coast of the Isle of Wight exposes rocks of the Wealden Group, deposited in a floodplain setting during the Early Cretaceous and is the most productive region in Europe for discovering dinosaurs; a wide range of fossil material having been found. In the Early Cretaceous this region had a monsoonal climate with long dry summers and flash floods. The floodplain drained to the south and preserved channels are sometimes found to contain log jams with associated bones. We also explained the geological history of the Hanover point area and its relationship with the Needles, the attraction we were set to visit on the following day.

Name	Year Group
Jamie Thomas	1
Matt Webb	1
Toby Gann	1
Nat Elliot Green	1
Alex Lewis	1
Beneen Tahir	1
James Scaife	1
Ed Vaughan	1
Robin Bridge	1
Chris Dean	1
Matt Carney	1
Sofia Walker	1
Mike Jones	1
Amelia Davies	1
Kirsty Poore	2
Fiona Ashman	2
Hannah Bungey	2
Katy Hebditch	2
Matt Wilks	2
Sam Davies	2
Giles Ostermeijer	2
Joe Matthews	2
Tom Earnshaw	2
Alex Stevenson	2
Sang Kim	3
Kirsty Reynolds	3
Frances Cull	3
Nick Wainwright	3
Henry Debens	3
Michael Stoner	4
Mel Kinchington	4
Katie Vowles	4
Sammy Jones	4
Danny Hill	5/ DPFS

We didn't have time for lunch so we ate in the minibus and drove towards the dinosaur museum back in Sandown. We began with a guided fossil walk led by Steve Radforth, a trained geologist from the 'Dinosaur Isle' museum. We spent time walking along the beach examining the cliffs and being educated about the

geology of the island and its relationship with mainland Britain. After the fossil walk we went back to the museum and looked at all of the amazing exhibits including the interactive sections: sitting in the sand pits excavating fossils, or doing jigsaw puzzles to recreate different species, until it was time to go back and get ready for the fancy dress Halloween fines dinner...After the committee members and some of the older years had finished cooking some amazing spaghetti bolognese, we sat down for dinner: some before the president. A rookie error. The fines dinner was a great way for everyone to relax and have a great night. It helped the students to learn each other's names and get to know them better and encouraged the fresher's to be confident! During the meal there were some hilarious episodes, and the best part was that the fresher's offered to clear up afterwards too! After this we sat in the social area in our ridiculous costumes having a great time. Some daring people decided to go for a midnight swim whilst others set up an assault course involving climbing around table and hanging on to coving with their fingertips. Overall it was a great night that really helped the fresher's get to know people in their own year much better and those students in older years.

Sunday started very early! After standing outside in the horizontal rain loading up the minibus and the accommodation was thoroughly cleaned and vacated, we headed once again for our beloved Morrison's. Never have so many hot cooked breakfasts been ordered in such a short time! Upon leaving the car park, we assured everyone that the navigational mistakes of yesterday would not be repeated, and that we wouldn't get lost! We travelled to the Western most tip of the island once more to the Needles attraction park. At the park we climbed down the cliff path to the beach at Alum Bay, renowned for its beautifully coloured sandy cliffs and its fantastic view of the Needles limestone formation. The Needles pointed shape is a result of their unusual geology. The strata have been so heavily folded during the Alpine Orogeny that the chalk is near vertical. This chalk outcrop runs through the centre of the Island from Culver Cliff in the east to the Needles in the west, and then continues under the sea to the Isle of Purbeck, forming Ballard Cliff (near Swanage), Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door. It is also believed that The Needles were once connected to Old Harry Rocks (east of Studland and north of Swanage) where these strata lines moving from horizontal to near vertical can be seen from the sea. We stood on the cliffs and gave a talk about how the varying sandstones had formed and discussed the strangely dipping dramatic strata of the Needles. Had it been the correct time of year we would have had a boat trip around the Needles themselves but as it was, the tours were not running. As a gesture of their will against the sea, two very brave (and let's be honest, a little high on the stunning geology) fresher's decided it was time for a swim. We watched and took photos from the steps and started on our way back up to the amusement park where we went to the sand shop to buy containers and fill them up with layers of the different sands. We also went to the old fashioned sweet shop and the glass blowing shop where we saw people blowing glass swans. After everyone had grouped back together, we had been at the Needles for several hours and decided to make our way to a nice place for lunch. Having gone around the one way system twice, and people insisting we go to a carvery, for late lunch we stopped at a pub advertising Sunday roast and a pint for £6. Even though we settled for this, several members of the trip thought it necessary to have two lunches! Back on the road we made it to the Ferry Port just as the last cars were loading on to the 4.30pm trip, again leaving ahead of schedule. After some sleeps on the Ferry we made it back to the RSM where we unloaded Steven the tree and the bags before going to the union for a couple of drinks...

So that was it: a wicked weekend, amazing mates and some hilarious stories.

FINANCIAL STATE OF THE TOUR:

Autumn Tour Finance:

The Tour ran at a £792.67 profit, which is a first in my 3 year involvement in the club. Usually the club runs these events at a loss with the deficit being made up at other events. This profit arose from the lack of sponsorship and donations leading into the event, this meant that every avenue was used to try to find funding, many of which came through in the end. The excess can be used to write off the **£632.18** deficit that remains in the budget from last year's winter tour to the Pyrenees. The allocation of money towards transport from the union, money from the department and our sponsors Limsco is greatly appreciated.

General Club Finances:

Budget	Balance
Grant	£1,124.57
SGI	-£209.20
IC Trust	£364.12
Faculty	£400.00
Cash Balance	£1,679.49

(Cash balance as of 22.00 Wednesday 25th November 2009)

At the beginning of the 08/09 academic year the clubs finances were in disarray with a starting balance well in excess of **-£5000**. Much of this money was recovered by the efforts of last year's committee. While the club is not run for profit some events and fundraising efforts must make a profit in order to run the field trips which are largely loss making.

This effort to create a positive cash balance for the club is continuing. The club finance page is slightly confusing as historically things have been incorrectly coded. One session has been held with Aziz to rectify this and another will be held soon. This hopefully will move money into the correct sections of the SGI accounts making it more clear and transparent.

(Information provided by Michael Stoner, Club Treasurer 2008-2010)

DID IT ACHIEVE THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES?

The aims and objectives of the De La Beche Club are to promote the enjoyment of Geology within Imperial College and aid in the integration of new students to the RSM community. The DLB society is a long standing club founded in 1914 and is named after Sir Henry De La Beche, the founder of the Royal School of Mines. The society boasts a large array of members including many leading geologists and anyone from the college who wishes to get involved. We welcome members with all geological abilities and promote the chance to learn under a relaxed and social environment.

Our aims for this particular tour were to encourage the Fresher's of 2009 to integrate with all of the years in the department and make them feel comfortable and welcome. As many students studying the subject have no prior geological experience we aimed to introduce them to field geology in an exciting way. Overall we feel that the trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all; even those with prior fieldwork had great sights to see. The dinosaur footprints, Dinosaur Isle museum, Needles and Alum Bay were all great fun and really educational.

CHANGES TO THE PROPOSED A&O's OR ACTIVITIES:

There were no changes to the proposed aims and objectives or to the initial itinerary. However, although there was no change to the structure of activities, there were slight changes to timings.

PARTICIPANTS' IMPRESSIONS OF THE TOUR:

The following are impressions and reviews of the trip submitted by participants:

- 'Really fun trip! Absolutely hilarious. Great people. Scenic drives & places. Some geology too. Pubbing & clubbing. Chillin out. Nice weekend away from London! And to remember it all, a tree in the undergrad study room and lots of photos :) Can't wait for the next trip...wouldn't miss it!' **Sophia Walker**
- 'A truly carnagous weekend... Keep up the good work DLB... Already looking forward to the next one!' **Danny**
- 'This was ... awesome! :)' **Giles**
- 'I had a really good time and am glad so many freshers came! Field trips are a great way to integrate them into the DLB and RSM communities' **Sammy Jones**
- 'MASSIVE thanks to the girlies for organising it all we had a amazing time even if we did drive round the entire coast of the IOW looking for one dino footprint!' **Katie Vowles**

MAJOR ISSUES ARISING ON TOUR:

No major issues arose whilst on tour. The navigation capabilities of the collective leaders were somewhat sub-par, unfortunately leading to the minibus having to take a rather significant detour due to misdirection. Although this little problem did not lead to any activities being missed out, it would have been nice to have been able to spend a greater length of time at Hanover Point examining the Iguanodon footprints and having lunch on the beach!

IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE:

Whilst the trip really enjoyable, as a committee we have thought of ways in which it could have been improved. Firstly, we would have liked to take a greater amount of students. Unfortunately, the date of the trip was rescheduled to a week before the original date so as not to clash with an alternative RSM event. It meant that a second minibus was unavailable for our use, but hopefully on the next trip this will not be an issue! Secondly, we usually ask a lecturer or PhD student to lead the trips and aid with educating the participants' to the geology of the visited sites. As none were available, we relied on the research and confidence of committee members to give information on the geology of the island, and whilst our knowledge was rather good, it most certainly could have been improved by someone with greater field experience. However, to counter this point we were taken on a geological tour by a very experienced field geologist and guide working at the Dinosaur Isle Museum, named Steve, who educated us about the sedimentary history of the area which was really useful and enjoyable.

Clubs and Societies Board
7th December 2009

In conclusion we would like to greatly thank the union for providing us with a means of transport and a source of funding. We hope to continue leading trips within the UK and abroad, and appreciate the opportunity to encourage the enjoyment of the subject to new and existing students.

Thank you once again,

Hannah Bungey
DLB Honorary Secretary 2009-2010



The group at Hanover Point with the Iguanodon Footprints

Clubs and Societies Board
7th December 2009



Spring Reports

ICSE Tour Report: Canterbury Weekend Away Spring 2010

On Friday the 19th of March began the first ever ICSE Weekend Away for over two years. As soon as the rehearsal was over, fourteen of the most intrepid members of the String Ensemble started frantically packing a minibus and John Sandall's car with instruments, music stands and luggage. In the capable hands of our driver (and also the leader of the ensemble) Jon Silver, we reached the YHA hostel in Canterbury at about 11.30. We whiled away the rest of the evening with a quiet game of Cranium, which had many amusing moments, as well as several quite disturbing ones.

Breakfast was at 8.00 in the morning, and we saw various different interpretations of that particular instruction as ICSE members wandered into the dining room anywhere up to two minutes before we had to leave. The "early" start was a sign of things to come, as it would be a pretty intense weekend. We immediately jumped back on the minibus and set off towards our concert venue - Abbeyfield Connors House residential home, where we were welcomed by the manager of the tour, Nicola Jee, and a fat dozy rabbit.

We quickly settled into our rehearsal room, and began the first of three intense rehearsals. Our repertoire was the music we were planning to perform that term: Mendelssohn's *String Symphony no. 8*, Stravinsky's extremely challenging *Concerto in D*, Barber's powerful *Adagio for*



Strings and *Stop Playing Homework and do your Video Games* by some guy on the internet. This was our first look at the video games piece, which was a collection of classic (and mostly Nintendo) video games ranging from Tetris to Zelda, arranged for strings. It was a pleasant change from the more conventional repertoire, and for those of us who know and love those games, was a great blast from the past. Although having only been with the ensemble for a term and a

half, our new conductor Scott Wilson already knew how to get the most out of the group, and it was a productive, if slightly sleepy, rehearsal. Naturally there were tea breaks to keep us all happy.

Just after lunch we had our first chance to explore the city properly. We were a short walk from the cathedral, which is where the more cultured among us made our way to. Armed with a guide of the cathedral, we made a vague attempt to follow the route marked on the plan, but sadly were unable to explore the whole place when several areas were suddenly and inexplicably roped off. What we did manage to see ranged from the spectacularly massive stained glass windows to the huge collection of crucifixes and chalices, which were both breathtaking and at the same time rather eerie. To complete our afternoon of culture, we

headed off in the general direction of the castle, under the guidance of Ingolf's map reading skills. As far as I gather, the rest of the ensemble spent their free time in a teashop, leisurely making their way through cream tea.

Eventually it was time to make our way back to the residential home to resume our rehearsal. Focusing on the Stravinsky – easily the hardest of the pieces – made it a tough rehearsal, but ICSE people are made of stern stuff, and we made great

progress that afternoon. When we got back to the hostel, many of us were seriously ready for some food... and soon we had it: massive amounts of pasta, cooked by Toby and the ladies of the ICSE committee. There was enough for at least five helpings each.



The next important thing was to find a suitable establishment to spend the evening at. After spending quite some time wandering around looking for the best pub in Canterbury, we finally settled down to sampling some of the more interesting looking local ales, and generally recovering from what had been a long and strenuous day. The traditional sectional shots were held at various stages throughout the evening, starting with the classic “cello shots”, and later on moving on to some of John's more dubious drinking ideas. All too soon it was time to leave, but a couple of cellists managed to get themselves locked inside the pub, due to being in the toilets while it was closing. We stumbled our way back to the hostel, some of us looking forward to the morning less than others.

Sure enough, breakfast was an interesting time for some members of the ensemble, although everyone was fully recovered in time for the early morning rehearsal, where finishing touches were put to the pieces, to prepare for the concert that would follow in the afternoon. As soon as it was over, we immediately moved off to another pub, this time for lunch. The return to the residential home was quite a rush, since we had waited a while for food at the pub, but we quickly set up stands in another one of the rooms, and changed into our typically sombre concert dress.

The concert was casual, but well-received, although I'm not sure if many of the elderly residents fully appreciated the video games piece. We played one movement of the Stravinsky, the video games piece, and two movements of the Mendelssohn, which went down very well. It was a solid performance, and it was particularly satisfying to see the results of the intensive rehearsals paying off so soon. As soon as it was over, we packed everything into the minibus again, and set off towards London.

The main purpose of our tour to Canterbury was to have a series of rehearsals followed by a concert in Kent. One of ICSE's aims is to provide opportunities to its members to widen their

musical experience and improve the standard of its members' playing. The intensive schedule of rehearsals followed by a concert allowed players to learn much about playing as an ensemble as well as about their own playing, and gave us extra rehearsal time to prepare for events such as ArtsFest. Spending this amount of concentrated time together allowed our members to bond quickly, which is particularly important as we are a traditionally close-knit ensemble.

The tour was certainly a success in terms of the aims and objectives originally set out, since we did indeed have an intensive series of rehearsals, followed by a concert. Two of the pieces rehearsed were also performed at Artsfest, which was the week after we returned. Feedback from members was all positive, though a couple of issues were raised. It was mentioned that the tour was quite expensive, at £45 for a weekend away, but that this compares favourably with other musical weekend trips. It was also pointed out that the majority of the members on tour were not new to ICSE, which made it seem like an "in crowd". This could probably be improved on by reducing the price, however the real issue is getting new people involved more, which is a general aim for ICSE. Another problem could be that the scheduling of the dates was inconvenient for some people, but that would always be a problem.

With 10 full members out of the 14 attendees (including our conductor, whom we did not charge), we gained £585 ticket income for the trip. With the Union subsidising the travel costs by £162.49 and the addition of £200 ICSE subsidy, we were able to break roughly even on the trip with an expenditure of around £920.

This was our first of what will hopefully be many tours with our new conductor, and everyone involved had a great time. After the success of our last few tours in the UK, we hope to expand our horizons by touring on the continent this summer.

Ken Harvey
ICSE Publicity Officer 09/10

CivSoc Tour Report 2010

The CivSoc Tour is an annual event, which sees members of the Civil Engineering Department visiting a foreign country in order to gain a different perspective of their field and to appreciate engineering in different cultures and environments. This year CivSoc went to Rome from 25th February 2010 – 1st March 2010.

The tour is an incredible opportunity to encourage the cohesion of the 4-year groups of the department. Upon returning to the department, people are a lot closer and their bond is the exclusive tour hoodie. Members of CivSoc should be encouraged to attend at least one International Tour because it is an invaluable means to appreciate engineering without textbooks and lectures. Demand for places on the tour is always very high; this year the application process was opened at 8:45am and it was filled by 8:47.

69 CivSoc members attended this year's tour including 7 committee members, this meant approximately 15 from each of the four years in the department would attain. The tour is an invaluable means to integrate with other years and we thought having such a variety of people attending would benefit the whole ethos of the tour. All years benefit from the tour, both in an engineering perspective and in the sense of social cohesion.

Thursday 25th February

After arriving in Rome and checking into our hostel, the general consensus was to have a walk around and then get a couple of hours sleeps due to travelling for approximately 10hours. In the evening, the group visited the Trevi Fountain and explored the surrounding area.

Friday 26th February

The next day, 'Roma passes' were distributed to everyone. These were effectively oyster cards that permitted 3 days of free unlimited travel, and free entry to two attractions. In the morning we visited the principal university in Rome, the Università della Spazio. The committee had communicated prior to this with their engineering department and tours of their Soils, Fluids and Structures labs were organised. The initial tour of the university main building really highlighted to us how ugly the Skempton building is! The tours were very interested and provided a valuable insight into the work of our Italian colleagues. The tours overran slightly so there was a rushed journey by tube and train the Auditorium della Musica in the north of the city. This, built by Mussolini, is an amazing example of contemporary engineering. A tour had been organised allowing the group to go behind the scenes into areas usually restricted to the public. Luckily, the Roman Orchestra were practising in the main hall and we were able to quietly watch from the balconies.

Saturday 27th February

The group awoke early and we made our way to the Coliseum. The sheer size of the structure was enough for any student engineer to be in awe of the Romans! There was a huge amount to see and do in the area and so most spent the morning there. A free afternoon followed before everyone met up again in the evening to visit the Pantheon, which has the largest unreinforced concrete dome in the world and it was built 2000 years ago, and it is breathtaking.

Sunday 28th February

Everybody awoke early in the morning and we headed towards the Vatican and started queuing. We had planned to visit the Vatican this day because as it was the last Sunday of the month, the trip would be free. The group split into small groups, which divided and visited different parts before meeting up in outside St Peter's Basilica. I insisted that it was compulsory to give the Sistine Chapel a visit but I think everybody's mothers had already said so prior to their leaving! The Pope gave a sermon to the crowds in the square including the members of CivSoc. It was an amazing experience and the last visit of the tour could not have gone any better. The group were then given a bit of free time, and I think most people went on to visit the main sites that are including in the Derren Brown film adaptations!

Monday 1st March

CivSoc woke up very early and arrived back in the UK in time for morning lectures.

The tour was highly successful and achieved everything it set out to do. The university in Rome was impressed by our knowledge and enthusiasm and promised to visit us in London. Our members had a great time and the general consensus on the plane home, a part from being sleep deprived, was that it was better than last years and that they could not wait for next years. As the Chairman, although being slightly stressed at times, I felt that the tour was a huge success and that we achieved more than we set out to do. I attended a Staff-Student Liaison meeting on return to college, and I was told that the staff had been told very good things about the tour, which was encouraging!

However there was one issue that did arise. Whilst waiting for the plane at Stansted, a first year went into a quiet corner of a pub and went to sleep, and subsequently awoke after the plane had taken off. Having ensured that everyone had been given their boarding cards prior to going through security, the group were told that it was their responsibility to get to the boarding gate on time, because it would be too difficult to run around the terminal trying to find people. Despite this though, he was left in Stansted. Once it had been identified that he was missing, he was phoned but he had gone home and admitted that it was his fault.

The department are very supportive of the tour and are very helpful in it's planning. Lectures for all years were rearranged for the two week days that CivSoc members were away so that they did not miss any work. A second year project was also postponed by a couple of hours on the Monday to ensure that those who were in Rome could make the beginning of the session.

A number of locations are chosen by the committee and are initially researched. Members of the department then vote for the final location.

ICSMSU Mountaineering Club France Trip - Spring Tour 2010

The France trip was probably the Medics' Mountaineering clubs most successful trips to date in both finances and fun. On 12th March 2010, 14 of us embarked on our first excursion abroad to the beautiful city of Montpellier in the south of France from the magnificent Gatwick airport (a full 2 hours EasyBus ride from Fulham Broadway). Our first destination was a scenic lodge in the mountains of Les Cevennes, in Languedoc Rousillon, country of the most famous (and best) red wine. Driving a car and a 9-seater Ford we started a treacherous climb up mountain roads (with goats) in



the dark. On reaching Rouas (a small village of 20 people + 13 non-French full members and 1 French full-member as well as a local hero who joined us on the trip) we unpacked our belongings into perhaps the most complete holiday house in the world. Not only was there a full blown fire in the fully furnished kitchen and 7 bedrooms, we were treated to a full size Fusball table (originating in a French Pub).

After visiting the 'Hypermarche' we dined on Raclette (Jambon, Fromage et Pommes des Terre) and indulged in some dodgy local French wine (AND PASTIS, the liquer of Southern France).



After a hectic first day, we walked outside to view perhaps the most beautiful night sky we had experienced (apart from Wales last year, though what happens there stays there).



The first day of climbing involved the most perfect weather conditions, cool and sunny. After some (uncertain) navigating to our desired climbing location we set up our pitches and started our ascent to glory. It was truly an amazing day for our climbing club.



The second night was filled with treats, fun and laughter. Following a refreshing 'chocolat chaud' we began a production line for Spinning™ Crepes. Embodied with jambon, salmon, eggs, sugar, lemon, nutella with a hint of beer (not all at the same time!) we continued our satiated festivities with Pastis and the Pastis Master™. A wonderful night ensued and magic happened (especially for two of our esteemed members)



The third day crept up upon our hangover. However this 'condition' could not dampen our spirits. It was once again another amazing day for climbing. This time the peak stood below our soaring spirits. We had all become experienced route setters and the reward was an amazing view of Cevennes.



Continuing on our high, we climbed past the sunset. It was getting dark, our stomachs running on empty, we returned to the warmth of Rouas and the ready-made 'chocolat chaud' and a French classic; Special Fried Rice. Tonight we were ready. Ready for... 'The Rouas World Fussball Championships™'. 7 brave teams destined for greatness began their quest for glory (and some rubbish left-over wine). Rising to greatness, the Comiteam conquered Matt^2 to claim the coveted title after a gruelling play-offs. On this achievement, sleep was awarded to all.

The final day involved a clean up of the minimal mess created by maximally drunk people. This took a very short time (2 hours).

After saying good-bye to our enviable home away from home we visited Montpellier City Centre for a spot of lunch.



While waiting for our flight back to London, in typical British tradition, the sun became our blanket revitalising our bodies with Vitamin D. Our trip was concluded. Good-bye Montpellier. Till' next year!

Quotes:

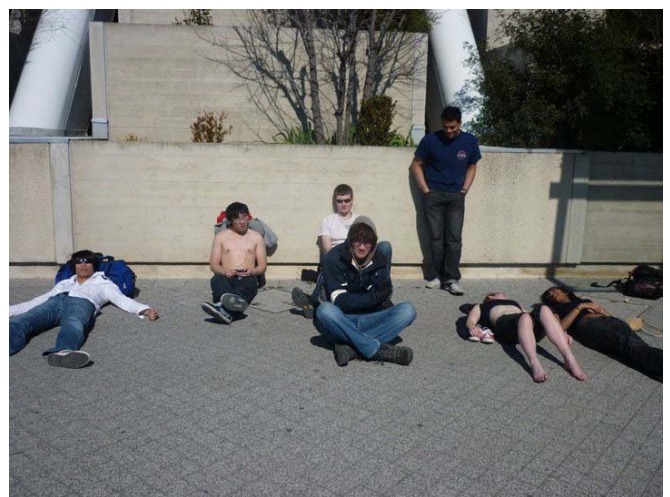
"That's what Steph said."

"Pommes des Jus!!!"

"Vance! Sit-down."

"PASTIS!!!"

"Roxxaannnnneeee...!"





ICU Dance Company Edinburgh Tour

Dates of tour

26th February 2010 - 28th February 2010

Number of members on tour

34

Financial aspects

TRAVEL EXPENSES:

Train/bus/flight:	£50 per person:	£1700
-------------------	-----------------	-------

OTHER EXPENSES:

Competition entrance fee:	£8 per person:	£272
---------------------------	----------------	------

Awards entrance fee:	£5 per person:	£170
----------------------	----------------	------

Accommodation:	£11 per person/night:	£748
----------------	-----------------------	------

Overall total:		£2448
----------------	--	-------

Tour Agenda

26th February

Arrival of members in Edinburgh

27th February

0900 Arrive at George Square Lecture Theatre

1035 – 1110 Stage rehearsal

1345 – 1830 Competition

2000 Awards ceremony

28th February

Departure of members from Edinburgh

Competition Results

CATEGORY

Beginner Ballet

Advanced Ballet

Contemporary

Beginner Tap

Advanced Tap

PLACE

2nd

1st

2nd

3rd

2nd

Best Dancer: Francesca Boughey

Photos

Beginner Ballet



Advanced Ballet



Contemporary



Jazz



Beginner Tap



Advanced Tap



As I sat in my first class seat on the train from London to Aberdeen, enjoying the wireless internet and table service, I spared a thought for the Fellwanderers who were enduring a twelve hour minibus journey up the M1. Not too much of a thought, however, because it was interrupted by a stewardess bringing me my lunch. The journey almost seemed too luxurious a preface to a week's walking in the mountains; I felt much more at home when changing onto my bus in Aberdeen, and I was greeted by a fish and chip shop connoisseur of a bus driver with the words: "Braemar? What the **** do you want to go there for?" Welcome to Scotland.

I was made to feel much more welcome when I rounded the corner into Braemar Lodge to discover the group still unloading the minibus. There were a few surprised faces at my unannounced arrival, but after locating the only free bunk, I soon settled in to an evening of wishing I'd stopped at a supermarket to buy some beer.

Bright and early on Sunday morning, it was time to get stuck in to some Munros. First up were the twin peaks of North Top and South Top, although not before a long trairpse along a snowed over Landie track – something that would later develop into a theme of the week. Our first ascent began, and after a brief delay for Dave to change up his shorts for his trousers, and another brief delay for Dave to add thermals under his trousers, we broke through the cloud and onto a beautiful plateau. North Top proved a challenging find on the lunar landscape, but Alex's stellar navigation guided us to our first Munro of the week, and all without anybody falling off a cliff or being caught in an avalanche. A quick trek back across the Moon and South Top was also ours.

Our descent was sped up considerably, at least for some, by the frequent deployment of essential safety equipment. Unfortunately, all this time was then lost to The First Great Snowfight. Small skirmishes had been taking place all the way down the hill, and things gradually escalated until snowballs the size of beach balls were being exchanged, despite constant threats from the resident schoolma'am that "we would be in so much trouble". Not long later, we were trudging back to the minibus through the snow.

Back in the hut, Jim and Peter treated us to a delicious Sunday roast, full trimmings included, and there was much rejoicing. Despite our efforts, we didn't quite manage to finish everything; After all, "there's no need to ram meat down your throat just for the sake of it", right? Early nights followed for most of the group, except for the dedicated team of dessert designers who worked into the early hours creating The Beast.

Forged from every imaginable ingredient, The Beast was a four-layered monstrosity of heart disease waiting to happen. Weighing in at approximately twenty kilos, it was unlike anything we'd ever seen in a kitchen, and it hadn't even left the pot yet. That would have to wait for a day of settling.

Sunrise on Monday greeted us with traditional Scottish weather, or at least it would have done, had the traditional Scottish weather not obscured it. Carn a Tuirc was our goal, and undeterred by the wind, the rain, or the complete absence of any shelters marked on the map, we headed up. The view from the summit was non-existent, so we stayed only to argue briefly about our next destination, and which way it was, before setting off for Cairn Claise. Once again, we managed a whole day without anybody falling off the many available cliffs. Morale dropped considerably on the descent, until finally we dropped out of the cloud and the minibus came into view, although still several hundred meters below us. Thankfully, our trusty survival bags were once again at hand to speed our descent. Stopping only to discuss the possibilities of multiple roadkill rabbits as dinner, we headed back to town to see what Braemar had to offer.

Aside from whisky, walking equipment and woollen clothing, Braemar does not offer much, so our time would mostly be split between the single pub and a delicious-looking takeaway, The

Hungry Highlander, that served the best of world cuisine: Fish and chips, pizzas and kebabs. After a quick trip to the pub, we return to the bunkhouse to discover that the Beast was about to be unveiled in all its glory. A ten minute struggle ensued, after which we finally managed to release it from the pot, and it sat in the middle of the dining table challenging us to finish it – or even start it! The top layer was a milk chocolate and marshmallow affair, followed by a layer of white chocolate and brownie clusters. Below that, the cereals kicked in, with one layer of rice krispies and toffee and another of cornflakes. The whole thing was almost six inches high, and nearly two feet in diameter. Eating it all this week would be quite a challenge..... a challenge we got stuck straight into as soon as we'd finished our chili pasta. Perhaps ambitiously, we set ourselves the target of eating a quarter every night, and dished portions out amongst the group accordingly. Some complained they were being served too little, some too much, but nearly all of us were soon stifled by the sheer sweetness of the dessert. Throughout a whole evening of the traditional game Werewolf, and some of its lesser-known variants, we struggled to finish the culinary task we'd assigned ourselves.

No walking was planned for Tuesday, so we seized the opportunity for a lie in with both pillows and stayed in bed until the decadent time of eight o'clock, when I walked into town to buy pancakes, satisfying myself that I had made my culinary contribution for the week, and leaving the preparation in the much more capable hands of Jen, who did not disappoint. Well stuffed, we headed off to Balmoral to see the Queen. Unfortunately, the Queen wasn't in (kind of her to tell us), so we just had a poke around her house instead, and then strolled around her oversize garden. Secretly, I'm sure everybody was counting down the minutes until our distillery tour began. Jim, James, Peter and I even found a mini hill to climb, although despite our best efforts, we failed to get lost.

Royal Lochnagar did not disappoint! Our tour guide survived most of Joe's technical questions, and provided us with plenty to taste at the end. She seemed very keen for us to know that Royal Lochnagar are now owned and operated by Diageo, so it would be criminal of me not to further her cause by leaving out that essential factoid. This being my first time, I discovered how water and barley become hangovers, and I gather that even the seasoned whiskey tourists learnt a thing or two.

A quick stop at the supermarket for some, and a quick stop at the pub for others, was necessary on the way home, where we settled down to try out all the whiskey we'd been coaxed into buying at Royal Lochnagar. Our local culinary experts once again excelled with a risotto, followed, as usual, by Beast. Unusually, however, tonight's serving of Beast contained some unpleasant surprises: My slice in particular seemed to have an unusually high onion content. The shocking combined flavour of onion and marshmallow forced me to retreat from the kitchen, tail between my legs, and not return for the rest of the night.

Wednesday would bring us the marquee walk of the trip: Cairngorm and Ben Macdui – the second highest peak in the UK. Not satisfied with only the two Munros, Alex had also hatched a secret plan for the more adventurous group members to take in another pair and walk most of the way back to Braemar from Aviemore. However, before we did any walking, we'd have to negotiate the sixty mile drive to Cairngorm Ski Centre. With a long walk ahead, we were taunted all the way up the first ascent by the sight of skiers the other side of the fence, enjoying the snow that was making our lives so difficult. Twenty minutes in, Anna, Joe, Peter and I had could no longer resist the temptation, and, ignoring the disdainful glares, we returned to the base station to rent equipment, buy lift passes and enjoy the Easter snow.

While we were wasting our day frolicking around with gravity, Alex, Jim, James, Gavin, Jiri and Eva set off on their marathon hike, heading from Ben Macdui over to Carn A'mhaim. After a pitched battle with some wandering orcs at the summit, they slew three dragons along the river back to Braemar, and would have hiked all the way home had Rafal not intercepted them with the bus. Although, I wasn't there, so I can't be certain. They might have exaggerated things a bit.

The next day arrived with a curious mixture of slackers' fresh legs and hikers' stiff legs, but nothing like that would deter us from upping our Munro count. We set off early to Beinn Bhreac, along a route spied by Alex on yesterday's return. After another prolonged track trek, we set off into the wilderness past a house that looked suspiciously reminiscent of Dog Soldiers. This was too much for

James and Dave, who soon after decided that they'd be much safer in the minibus, and disappeared back down the track to hide. Once we'd evaded the werewolves, and the Russian spies who were, for no apparent reason, camped out in the vicinity, we began to climb up to the peak of Beinn Bhreac. At least, we thought it was the peak, but our celebrations were cut short by Alex's announcement that actually the real peak was further over to the East, and was a phenomenal four metres higher. So off we tramped through the wind until we reached the summit, when we decided that it was too windy, and that we should all lie down behind the cairn for a nap.

Refreshed, we began to head home, taking a detour to take in a gorge that apparently 'looked nice from the map'. We were lured in by the promised of picturesque scenery to admire while enjoying our lunch. Along the ridge, we were blessed with amazing views of some of the week's earlier walks, which is good, because the gorge itself was disappointingly quarrylike. No matter, morale was high on this bright sunny day as we made good pace home.

The car park presented us with an interesting distraction in the form of a biotoilet, which as far as I could tell, is simply a toilet with fewer moving parts and many more instructions: so many that quite a queue formed just because we all took the time to read them. We arrived back in Braemar relatively early, which offered us an opportunity to head into town and remind ourselves that there wasn't much there. A local tea room provided a welcome change of scenery from the bunkhouse, however, and much entertainment and discussion of child labour laws when a six-year-old child came to collect our dirty crockery at closing time. Another delicious dinner, this time haggis, was followed by nervous servings of Beast, with much poking to find any stray slices of cheese or onion that may sneaked in.

Our final day was scheduled to be long one: a 28 kilometre circuit taking in a measly five Munros. Early starts were required, including some last-minute packing for the one person who had to ruin everything by leaving a night early. Uncharacteristically, this walk allowed us to get immediately stuck in to the climb; no flat tracks would eat up our morning today. We were headed for Lochnagar, a beautiful lake beneath beautiful cliffs that gives its name to the whiskey produced at Tuesday's distillery. Up in the snow on a clear day, we had breathtaking views of the Cairngorm National Park and of all our week's walking, and mid-morning we hit our first Munro, Cac Carn Beag. Once we'd arrived at this summit, the highest of the day, we had also completed nearly all our ascent, so we took some time out for photographs and snacks, interspersed with some final last-day snowballing for those of us who still hadn't tired of it.

Carn a' Choire Bhoidheach and Carn a t-Sagairt Mòr soon also fell to our relentless boots, although the third surprised us with lone aircraft wing resting near the top. Dave's aeronautical engineering training let him down as he failed to identify it from a sole wing, but through the wonders of mobile internet we identified it as a RAF Canberra, WJ615, from all the way back in 1956, which unfortunately collided with the mountain after overshooting a night-time landing nearby.

On we hiked, with some of the group making the most of the last of the week's survival bagging opportunities in the snow (some of us had been issued new bags and were forbidden from unwrapping them). We soon reached Cairn Bannoch, and pressed on to Broad Cairn – with fewer than a hundred metres of descent and ascent between peaks, the going was not tough, and at the top we took some time to survey our day's impressive accomplishments. That was the end of our climbing for the week.

It was not the end of our walking, however: we still had nine kilometres down to and along the side of Dubh Loch, along some tight, steep tracks. As we neared the water, Alex became increasingly nervous, obviously aware of Dave's plans to enact the 'tradition' of submerging the trip leader, but fortunately for him we never came close enough to the waterside. Perhaps much later than some had expected, we returned to the car park after an impressive day's, and a far more impressive week's walking.

The end of that walk also signalled the end of my time with the Fellwanderers. After an undignified change in the back of the minibus, I was abandoned in Ballater to make my own way home. Not that I had much to complain about – my own way home involved the sleeper train down from Aberdeen, including breakfast served to my cabin. Followed by Beast, of course!

Special thanks go out to all the Fellwanderers committee for a well-organised and exciting trip, Jim and Peter for keeping our engines running on delicious meals, and Rafal, Joe and Jules for all the extra miles they did in the driving seat of our minibus.

ICGC Spring Tour

Cotswold Gliding Club, Aston Down, Gloucestershire

Attendance

3 current Imperial students & 1 Alumni. (1 committee member)

Dates of Tour

27th of March 2010 to the 4th of April 2010.

Tour Report

The tour began with an early train from Paddington to Swindon on March 27th 2010. Upon arrival in Swindon, those who had travelled by train met with a Hannah, who has a car, and travelled the final miles to the Airfield by road. Much of the rest of Saturday was spent preparing for the week ahead: tents were pitched, 496 rigged and supplies brought in. We also met Mike Randell who would be our instructor for the week and Andy Cockerell, an Imperial College Alumni who is also an instructor and member of the Cotswold Gliding Club

Sunday was the first flying day, the weather was particularly good and all three students were able to fly. I was almost solo at this point and had three short flights practicing Circuits at the unfamiliar site with Andy. Hannah and Chris both flew for over an hour each in good thermic conditions. This was particularly useful for Chris; the long flight provided a great opportunity for him to get lots of time on the controls and practice the essential coordinated control inputs of stick and rudder together.

The weather took a turn for the worse from Monday to Friday. Flights were still possible in between showers and all three of us were able to make good progress. Mike Randell, who as well as being an experienced gliding instructor is an ex-RAF fast jet pilot, was impressed with the Handling of 496 and Chris took particular pleasure in enjoying the demonstration of some interesting manoeuvres. By Thursday I was ready to go solo for the first time, however the crosswind was too strong. During the week the benefits of having the Airfield to ourselves were clear; we achieved far more launches than would have been possible at Lasham in similar weather conditions.

Come the second weekend the weather had improved considerably. On Saturday I was able to fly solo for the first time, after a final check flight with Mike. The three solo circuits which followed were all over eight minutes long and I felt a great sense of pride in this achievement. Hannah also flew on Saturday, although Chris had to return to London for an urgent appointment.

Both Hannah and I flew on Sunday, this time with Andy. The weather was thermic, like the previous Sunday, and I was able to fly with Andy for over an hour. His coaching in the science of finding thermals proved most useful and upon my return to Lasham the following weekend I was able to fly

for 92 minutes solo. Hannah and Chris were both able to make progress towards going solo themselves throughout the week, with both getting many ticks on their progress cards.

The advantages of having the Airfield to ourselves on the weekdays were clear; despite the poor weather for much of the week everyone was able to get far more flights than would be possible at the busier Lasham in similar conditions.

The benefits of flying from a different Airfield were felt by all. It is particularly useful in developing good planning and flying of circuits. When one becomes accustomed to flying at the same airfield, it is all too easy to judge circuits by always flying the same path. For example – “I need to be over this piece of road at this height and over that house at such and such a height”. This is a bad habit to get into, since when pilots reach cross country standard it’s quite likely to have to land in fields or at a different airfield to which you took off from. It is therefore essential to develop good circuit judgement early on. Flying from Aston Down highlighted this to us all and I’m certain all three of us would agree that our circuits are now far more precise, dynamic and safer. Despite always being aware of this issue myself and trying to consciously make an effort to judge every circuit as it’s flown, I have certainly noticed that I now tend to land much closer to where I plan and with much shorter ground roll.

As well as the flying, much fun was had during the evenings. We visited many local country pubs and experienced some delightful, traditional food. Of particular note were the massive two-in-one Steak and Cauliflower Cheese pies. The members of Aston Down were all very friendly and accommodating; we felt most welcome. The adventure of Camping in rain and strong winds proved a little too much for some on one occasion, with two attendees electing to sleep on the sofa in the clubhouse for an evening!

Improvements for the future:

Although the tour can be considered a success in that three members were all able to have a considerable number of flights and each make great progress in their personal flying careers, the low attendance was somewhat disappointing. This was largely attributed to many club members having examinations in the first weeks of summer term. In the future this will be taken into account and next year we will try to make our tour more compatible with the exam period.

Financial state of the Tour

Students paid for their own accommodation, food bills and launch fees directly. The club also waived soaring fees (normally 24p per minute) for the duration of the tour; this a club tradition.

Originally it was planned to take a minibus, however due to the small number of attendees it was felt best to instead travel by train and members cars. The main cost to the club therefore was in towing 496 to Aston Down and back again. We are currently awaiting fuel receipts to reimburse those involved.

Photographs:

Away we go:



About to take off on first solo:



Clubs and Societies Board
11.05.10

496 at Aston Down Launch Point:



Outdoor Club Easter Tour 2010

Report compiled by Philip Leadbeater

Dates: 28th March-7th April 2010

Location: El Chorro, Spain



Aims and Objectives of the Tour

The primary purpose of this tour was to engage in sport climbing. Sport climbing refers to rock climbing on routes where there is permanent pre-placed protection in the form of bolts. Sport climbing is found in only limited locations in the UK but is the predominant form of rock climbing in continental Europe. This type of climbing is a good way to build stamina and confidence with a decreased risk in comparison to traditional lead climbing.

This region was selected based on the large selection of routes across the range of grades, and the opportunity to experience limestone features, such as tufas, which are rarely found in the UK.

Subsidiary objectives were to explore the local area (including the infamous Camino del Rey) and experience the local culture of Southern Spain.

Tour Activities:

The following activities took place on this tour –

- Sport climbing
- Via ferrata
- Walking
- Running
- Observing Easter celebrations in Malaga
- Visiting the beach/tapas bars

Tour successes

A large number of Outdoor Club members on a climbing tour to a foreign country is a success in itself. The logistical issues associated with large scale climbing trips via budget airlines are not insignificant. Climbing requires a large amount of equipment, in addition to personal and camping/sleeping gear.

The main successes in the view of the club were those members who were experiencing sport climbing for the first time, and engaged in an extremely positive way. The club committee and senior club members were reassured to see novices picking up the skills quickly and proficiently and using these skills to climb independently on some committing routes.

In terms of technical climbing, the standard reached was very high: 7a+ redpoints and 7a onsights being the best.

The Camino del Rey via ferrata was as much a psychological challenge as a physical one, but it is no surprise that both were overcome in style (see pictures below).

The proximity of the climbing locations to a major coastal city (Malaga) allowed rest days to be spent either at the beaches of Torremolinos or exploring the Old Town. The coincidence of this tour with the spectacular and prolonged Easter celebrations in Malaga provided additional opportunities to experience a unique aspect of Spanish culture.

Finances

At this point in time we are awaiting confirmation of a tour subsidy allocation from CSB as a result of our Tour location change.

Adverse events

No adverse events occurred during this tour. Some teams abseiled in the dark from a route when finishing late. Ideally this would be avoided but all teams were adequately equipped to deal with this eventuality. One member booked his return flight for the wrong day.

Feedback from members

The feedback on the tour was positive.

Future improvements

Photos

The following pages contain a selection of photos from this tour

Statement of thanks and the wider implications of tours

The authors, on behalf of Imperial College Union Outdoor Club, would like to express their thanks to the IC Trust and Imperial College Union for their continued support of student activities. With your help we have been able to promote the development of hillwalking, climbing and mountaineering within the Imperial College community.

Throughout our 65th anniversary year we have hoped to build upon the strengths of the club and this tour has been important for this. We hope this will encourage members to engage with future trips and tours and that this year's novices will commit to passing their newly found skills on to the future intakes of novice climbers.

Philip Leadbeater

May 2010

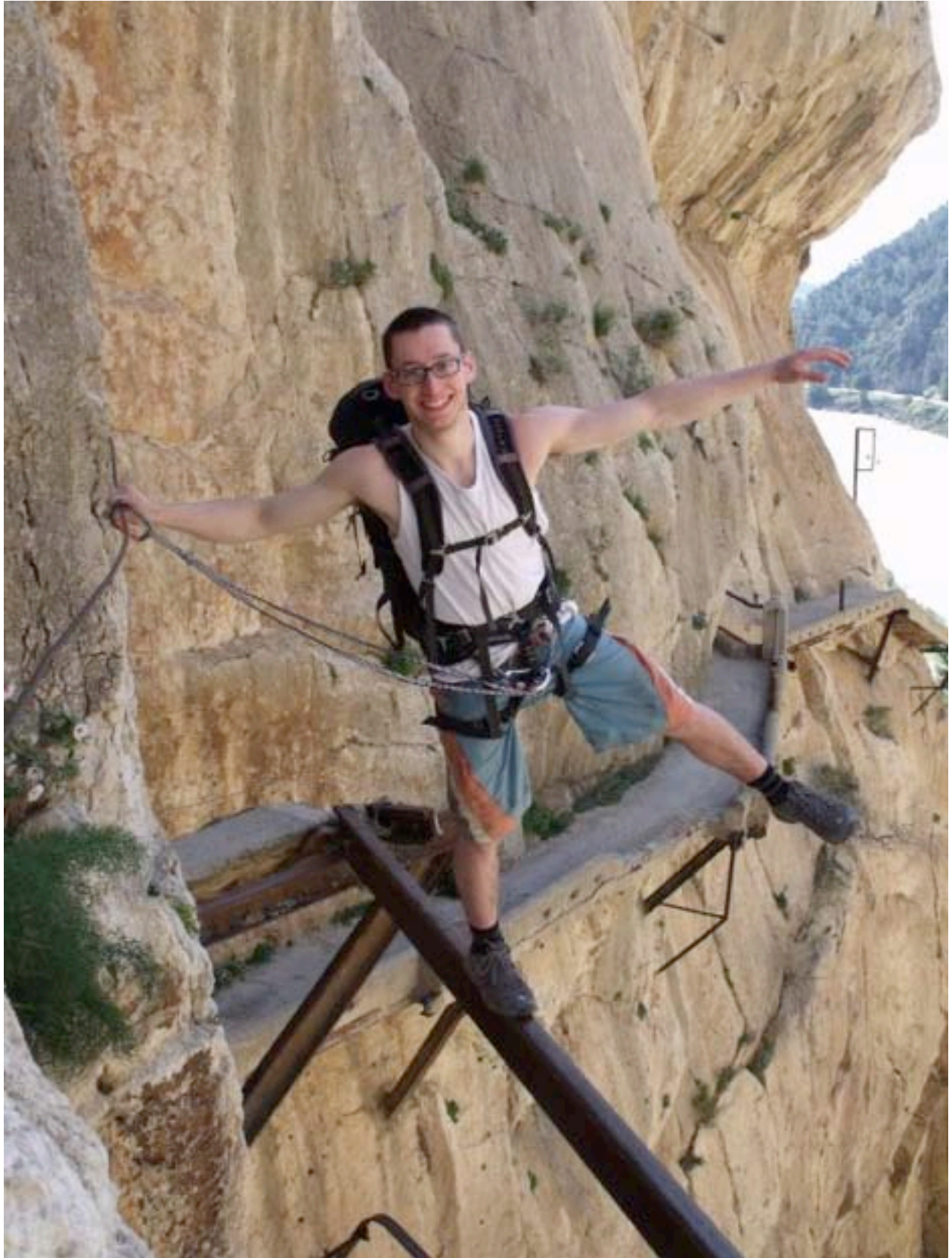
The gorge above El Chorro



The Irish Pub



The Camino del
Rey



Laybacking



Getting to grips with it all



Beautiful views





Imperial College Underwater Club – Easter Tour 2010

After a rocky start caused by a caravan site booking error, the Imperial College Underwater Club's Easter Extravaganza. After meeting up in Beit Quad and packing three minibuses full of kit we went to Harlington to collect Icecube, our new boat generously funded by the Harlington Trust. At Harlington we realised that our bus was too heavy to tow safely so after an hour of shuffling kit back and forth we were finally on our way. Our convoy of Branded minibuses and boats made a wonderful sight rolling down the M5. After several hours on the road we made it to Cornwall, our home for the week. While a group of people went to buy food for the week, the others made themselves at home.

Tuesday brought us some horrible weather but after a drive to Porthkerris to check the sea state it was decided that we would go ahead with the diving. Back at the campsite the trainees were sceptical and with the wind and rain battering the caravans, who could blame them? However, the beach is sheltered and the owners of Porthkerris had erected a large tent in our honour and soon the trainees were taking their first tentative fin - strokes in the open sea.

After that the days simply flew past. The weather remained changing, varying from beautiful sunshine to rain, wind and hail but spirits were kept high, mainly thanks to the daily deliveries of fresh baked Cornish pasties.

On Tuesday we launched Icecube and she performed wonderfully throughout the week. After finding and marking the Volnay (a WWI wreck) the trainees advanced from shore dives to open water diving to wreck diving, an option that turned out to be very popular.

We teamed up with our rivals at Oxford Underwater club for a filling barbeque and a lovely night dive where we spotted Scorpion, Dog and Cuttle Fish. After a late night on the beach we had a lie in the next day and then back to teaching. The trainees turned out to be exceptionally good and in no time they had finished their instructing and as they went out on their own the instructors took some well earned time of, lazed on the beach or went diving amongst themselves to recuperate after all that teaching.

On the last day we finished early, took the customary group photo and then headed to the pub for a lovely meal out and some awards for exceptional behaviour over the week.

Clubs and Societies Board
10th May 2010



After the pub we retired to the caravans to pack, tidy and have a last beer or two. The next morning we packed the minibuses one last time and set off in our convoy back to London. After another long day on the road we returned to Beit Quad to wash kit, sign qualification books and head home.

All in all we carried out over 140 dives, issued certified 32 certificates (15 Sports Divers and two Ocean Divers) and travelled over 2200 miles (land and sea). Not bad for £170 per person!

Summer Reports

Imperial College Hockey Club – Tour Report – Slovenia & Croatia 2010

ICHC chose to take a tour this year which was shorter and closer to home than last year's two-week Indian excursion. It was a brilliant chance to play a different style of European hockey, and for some of the lesser-toured members of the club to have the 'sports-tour' experience. The tour took in four regions of Slovenia and Croatia. Beginning in Ljubljana (Slovenia), we moved to the North-Eastern Prekmurje region of Slovenia, before travelling to Zagreb (the Croatian capital), and finally to coastal Split, to return to the UK. Games were played in Prekmurje – against HK Toplice and HK Triglav – and in Zagreb against Hahk Mladost, which were organised via contacts cultivated from previous ICHC tours.

After enjoying the culture of Ljubljana – including a hilltop castle with both fossils, and incredible views over the Ljubljana area - our first pair of games were at HK Triglav, who also kindly made arrangements for us to be put up in their club-house for the night. Giving our startling orange tour shirts (kindly sponsored by EcoCooling) an outing for their first time, the mostly-female ICHC mixed side competed well against the male-dominated HK Triglav team, on a hot and rather beach-like pitch, with the game finishing 8-7 in their favour.



Our luminous tour shirts!



Scoring against HK Triglav

As was to prove a common theme throughout our games, ICHC were dominant early on, with the heat (around 35°C and sunny) proving more problematic later in the games. The planned mens' game against HK Triglav was replaced by a game against the Slovenian national U16 side, in training for an international tournament in August. The young Slovenians displayed

some beautiful skills, but unfortunately were no match for the speed and strength of the Imperial men. The game eventually finished in a 5-0 win for ICHC's.

Our third game, the next day, against HK Toplice, was another mixed affair in the bright mid-afternoon sunshine. After a highly competitive first half, we unfortunately collapsed in the second, leading to an eventual score of 8-3. Following this, we travelled to Zagreb to experience the Croatian capital, and play another game. Although some historical buildings seemed less than welcoming to tourists, many of us enjoyed the stunning cathedral, markets and botanical gardens before our final game.

The last match, against Hahk Mladost was a great display of competitive hockey from both sides. The lovely, water-based pitch, was part of the large Jarun sports complex comprising a number of stadia and a large rowing lake developed for the World Student Games in 1987. Our opposition (apparently a 'second-string' team, as the first team were away on international duties) contained some internationally capped players, but after some exciting play from both sides the final score was a justified 4-4.

Happy with our playing performance, the final leg of tour moved us on to Split via overnight train. Here we were able to meet up with a number of other club members, swelling the total party to over 40! This was a great chance for members of the club to get to know one another, particularly whilst enjoying a trip to the islands off the coast of Split. Overall, the committee feel this was a successful tour both in terms of playing a different style of hockey against new opposition and giving members of the club a new experience.

Gaelic Athletics Club

A full financial breakdown of the tour

A day by day account of what occurred ie activities etc

Number of members attending (full and not full members)

Dates of the tour

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

Were there any changes to the proposed aims or activities

vii. Any major issues that arose whilst on tour

A full financial breakdown of the tour

Tour T-Shirt	£14
Flight London Luton -> Barcelona Reus	£48
Equity Point Hostel	£54
Train Barcelona -> Madrid	£52
Cats Hostel Madrid	£19
Flight Madrid -> London Stansted	<u>£46</u>
Total (Per Person)	£233

A day by day account of what occurred ie activities

Thursday 1st July

Met at the union to hand out t-shirts before leaving for Luton airport, flight at 17.30 to Barcelona Reus, took the transfer bus to Barcelona and a taxi to the hostel. Upon arrival we checked in and went for something to eat.

Friday 2nd July

Went to the beach for the day for some team bonding. Showered and went for a meal together before going to a nightclub.

Saturday 3rd July

Game v Barcelona Gaels

After a closely contested game Barcelona ran out one point winners mostly due to their ability to cope in the midday heat. After the game we were presented with a plaque in appreciation of our visit. We were then taken for a meal in a local restaurant and visited a music festival nearby.

Sunday 4th July

Visited a local tapas bar in the afternoon before boarding our sleeper train to Madrid at 22.20. Arrived in Madrid and checked into our hostel. Some tour members took

to opportunity to make up for lack of sleep on the overnight train while others visited the palace and local attractions.

We were then collected by the Madrid captain at our hostel before travelling to a local all weather pitch to play our game. Due to the lack of gaelic pitches we taped broomsticks to the soccer goals to play our game. After a very close game in the still hot evening on one of the hottest days of Madrid's summer we eventually lost out to a last minute goal. We then went for a meal with the Madrid team before enjoying the nightlife Madrid had to offer.

Monday 6th July

Had breakfast and departed to the airport for our flight back to Stansted.

Members Attending

18 Full Members & 2 Non-Members

Dates

1st to the 6th of July 2010

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

Apart from losing both games we were happy with the outcome of the tour.

Were there any changes to the proposed aims or activities

No

Any major issues that arose whilst on tour

An injury during the Barcelona game left a tour member with a fractured wrist as diagnosed in a Barcelona hospital, this turned out to be just a bad sprain after consultation with a consultant in London.

A number of tour members were the subject of thefts on tour with wallets, phones and cameras stolen during the duration, any above the excess of the university policy were reported and claims filed.

ICSM Music Society International Tour to BUDAPEST 12th-19th July 2010

In May 2010 the Tours committee granted ICSM Music Society £1770 towards the costs of our tour to Budapest. What follows is a report of how we got there (in all senses of the word!), what we got up to, and the challenges we faced. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask, mch06@imperial.ac.uk

The purposes of undertaking an international tour are many. The two main ones are to firstly intensively rehearse and prepare pieces in a fraction of the time this would normally take and secondly to provide players with a different environment in which to do this. We go on tour also to have fun, explore and get to know one another. Our aims for tour therefore were to provide an affordable week in less travelled part of Europe, where we could rehearse, perform concerts, and be cultural (and uncultural when appropriate!).



We achieved these aims quite successfully! We chose the Hungarian capital Budapest as our city, not quite on the Easyjet route, but still reasonably priced to get to and once we were there it was very affordable (0.5l beer 500HUF= £1.60!). Tickets were priced as £295 which included travel, accommodation, 3 meals, 3 activities, a travel card and a tee shirt. We also provided 2 subsidised places and these were given to key musicians who otherwise would not have been able to afford to

come in total 58 members of the society came, 52 for the whole week and 6 people came late or left early due to other commitments. In addition to the income from tickets and the grant from the tour fund, there were 3 other sources of money. Firstly £500 from the St Mary's Association, secondly we raised £850 from a Bop (the theme was "Rubix Cube") we held during the academic year, thirdly due to the generous sponsorship of the society from Savills, the society was able to put £1500 towards the cost of tour.

Budapest has a great tradition of Classical and Jazz music therefore it was perfect for our newly reformed jazz band as well as choir and orchestra. Organising concerts was quite a faff, despite a recci trip it was still extremely difficult to find people who spoke and understood enough English to explain what we wanted, many fruitful seeming conversations and emails led to nothing, and one such church stopped replying to all emails and call just 2 weeks before we left. However we



managed 2 classical concerts and 3 jazz band gigs (we had originally aimed for 3 classical and 2 jazz). Both classical concerts were in stunning churches and we even managed to attract audiences! The staff from our hostel came to one and I quote *"We're amazingly surprised by the high quality of your music"*. Some of the repertoire performed included Faure's Requiem, Handel's Zadok the Priest, Holst's Suite in E flat, Elgar's Nimrod and Pomp and Circumstance March no 4.



Jazz band played 3 gigs, the first in an Irish pub, the second in an American Church/market/festival (*you can imagine how well Anil*

Chopra singing “I just wanna make love to you went down there!”) and the third in a jazz club. All of these attracted large audiences; the 3rd gig in particular because many of us had been going to some of the many jazz bars in the city over the week and had persuaded people to come down and listen to us, there was such an amazing atmosphere.

The third great thing about Budapest (after its affordability and musical tradition) is that there is so much to do within the city and so not a moment to be bored in. In a short space of time it’s amazing how much we achieved and the range of things we managed to do. It’s probably easiest to explain in a day by day account as seen in the table below. Other things to mention are; how useful it was having Travel Passes; the beer and ice cream were delicious, but otherwise it is difficult to be complementary about the local food...; how incredibly hot it was, we were in Budapest during a heat waves and temperature exceeded 35° most days- definitely a different sort of environment to play in; I’m afraid I can’t remember how many times jazz band rehearsed but it was nearly every day and the improvement in their playing and repertoire was staggering; how amazing our hostel was, the staff were incredibly helpful, friendly and understanding, the accommodation was spacious, bright and well located and there was a perfect place to rehearse.

Date	Activity (* denotes activities that were included in the price of tickets)
Pre Tour	Rehearsal Loading the van with instruments and equipment. The van then drove across Europe to meet us in Budapest.
Monday 12 th	Meet at Heathrow airport in ‘Ones’ Arrive in hostel, allocate rooms and unpack Evening meal* then onto the famous 24h bar street
Tuesday 13 th	Distribution of tour tee shirts* Travel to Buda castle by tram (travel card*) and ski lift. Visit labyrinth* and castle in the morning/afternoon Divide into ‘firms’ for the evening and undertake “Drs&Nrs” pubcrawl (firm meal*) that ends in an outdoor club called Rio
Wednesday 14 th	Free morning to visit markets Rehearsal for orchestra and choir then concert in “St Anne Church, Bethany Ter” Bowling* in firms again
Thursday 15 th	Visit Budapest Zoo* Rehearsal for orchestra and choir then concert in “St Anne Church, Bethany Ter” Dinner* then off to a student night in a Budapest club
Friday 16 th	Waterpark* Jazz band gig in Irish pub
Saturday 17 th	Jazz band gig in American Church Free afternoon to visit the Basilica and Monument
Sunday 18 th	Thermal Baths in the morning Last night meal*, including tour highlights and awards, followed by jazz band gig
Sunday 19 th	Packing and fly back home

So thank you so much for supporting our tour and reading his report, I’m sorry it couldn’t have been as entertaining as the week itself!



1 Heathrow in our 'ones'. **2** Labyrinth. **3** Orchestra Concert. **4** Hungarian 'cuisine'. **5** Drs & Nrs Pub Crawl. **6** Hungarian Parliament. **7** Orchestra Rehearsal. **8** Budapest Zoo. **9** Jazz Band Gig. **10** Hot Hot and Hot again! **11** Waterpark 'Destructacon'. **12** Tour Tee Shirts





Imperial College Big Band

China 2010

Tour Report



Contents

1. Details	1
2. Diary	1
3. Finance	6
4. Acknowledgments	6

1. Details

Dates: 03/07/10-11/07/10

Full ICU Members: 23

Not full ICU members: 3

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

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

Were there any major issues that arose whilst on tour? No

2. Diary

Day 1 (3rd July) Flying to Shanghai

The Band arrived at Heathrow Terminal 5, preparing for the lengthy flight to Shanghai with a traditionally English Wetherspoon's lunch. Service proved to be quite slow, causing numerous members of the band to burn off the calories with a quick dash to the gate. Once in the air, most people utilised the perks of flying British Airways, with 2 birthdays being celebrated during the course of the flight (Chaz Keiderling and Alaric Taylor).

Day 2 (4th July) Schedule and first rehearsal

Landing at 8am China time, a small man with a large sign saying "Imperial College Big Band" directed us to the coach, taking us to our impressive hotel. After settling into our rooms and our first taste of authentic Chinese cuisine, we were given our precise schedule for the duration of our stay, beginning with a rehearsal that evening in the expo park, before the opening ceremony the next day. With the rehearsal running over and the band arriving back at the hotel at 2am, a new wakeup call was negotiated for 10am (from the original time of 6am!). China appears to be much further developed in the fast food market, with the 24-hour McDonalds delivery service tested out in the early hours, proving to be a huge success.

Day 3 (5th July) The First Gig and a Big Party

The morning was spent catching up on lost sleep from the overnight flight. After lunch served on an enormous rotating glass table, we headed out for an afternoon of rehearsals for the opening ceremony, sharing our green room with groups from Harvard, Yale and Oxford, performing on the spectacular Expo Square stage.



Rendering of the expo square stage

The first gig consisted of a short vocal and musical introduction to Imperial College (to a soundtrack of “The Bear Necessities”, performed by members of the band), followed by the whole band performing *On Purple Porpoise Parkway* and *The First Circle*. The 3,000 capacity audience, containing Chinese government officials and very enthusiastic school children waving many glow sticks, were treated to a range of musical styles and cultures from across the world, with the event being broadcast live on national television. In the finale, all the performers were invited onto to stage to perform the World Expo theme tune. To celebrate the successful opening ceremony, many of the groups ventured towards a local pub for an evening of entertainment.

Day 4 (6th July) 2 gigs in a day

The 7am wakeup call proved to be difficult for most people, although our 9:30am performance on the expo site required us to leave the hotel early. After a frantic breakfast, we managed to successfully arrive on time for the gig. This was on the same stage as the opening ceremony, although the audience was slightly reduced in size. Jan Marchant treated the eager listeners to some Frank Sinatra-style vocals, whilst solos from Chaz Keiderling, Alaric Taylor and Sam Sankey impressed the onlookers. The rest of the morning was spent exploring the expo park, with some of the band venturing to the UK pavilion, being treated to VIP queue jump (thanks to owning a British passport) rather than queuing for 6 hours. After lunch, a coach trip to the posh part of Shanghai led us to our next performance venue.

The evening venue was in a chic plaza surrounded by designer shops and restaurants in the middle of high rise city buildings. After a lengthy sound check, mastered by the now-present John Prestage, we ventured to a very pleasant Japanese restaurant for dinner, with a notable variety of exotic fruit juices, including papaya and an unknown 'Haw juice'. The gig itself was a success, with television cameras once again broadcasting to live national television.



Sound checking during the evening gig

On returning to the hotel, a more relaxing evening was spent in the hotel bar, before most people decided to have an early night.

Day 5 (7th July) Shanghai Sightseeing

A well-earned lie in prepared us for our first sight-seeing tour of Shanghai. Downtown Shanghai was the destination, to the Yu Gardens (traditional Chinese markets and architecture), followed by walking along The Bund, viewing the impressive Shanghai skyscrapers from across the river. Our large group appeared to be minor celebrities amongst the local tourists, with what seemed like more of our group having pictures taken of them than the actual skyline!

After more authentic Chinese food, we headed for the train station where we boarded our overnight sleeper train to Beijing. After stocking up on supplies at the station and designing a thief-proof protection system for instruments and cases, we boarded the classy carriages, equipped with TV screens, air conditioning and power sockets, allowing us to customise our cabins into mini jazz clubs, leading to an evening of amusement, whilst celebrating 2 more birthdays (Julian Waton and Louise Hirst).

Day 6 (8th July) Beijing Sightseeing

Upon arrival in Beijing, we were picked up by a coach, driving us straight to The Great Wall of China for an early morning viewing of the famous landmark. A short cable car journey took us to the wall, at which point we regretted not taking our instruments with us, doubting that there had ever been a jazz gig on it!



IC Big Band on the Great Wall of China

The next stop was a museum of Jade stone, particularly important in Chinese history and culture, followed by a visit to the Ming tomb, an impressively well preserved tomb of the

“favourite” emperor. Finally we went to a traditional Chinese ‘Tea Ceremony’, drinking a lot of different types of tea out of tiny cups.

After dinner we arrived at our new hotel to discover lavish rooms and an exquisite outdoor hotel bar. A walk to the birds nest Olympic stadium in the evening was followed by half the band venturing to the centre of Beijing to investigate the Beijing nightlife.

Day 7 (9th July) More Sightseeing and Award Ceremony

After breakfast, we headed to Tiananmen Square and the Imperial Palace, the most famous and biggest palace in Beijing. Our Chinese tour guide overlooked the most well-known events that have taken place in the square, instead focussing on the statues and large picture of Chairman Mao. In the afternoon we visited the Summer Palace, which was built by the only female to come to power, taking the dragon boat across the manmade lake and witnessing the longest kites any of us had ever seen, with estimates of 300-400m in length being realistic.

After duck pancakes for the first time on tour, the tour awards ceremony was conducted in one of the gigantic rooms by incoming chairman, Angus Bayley. The plan to sample the student area of Beijing in the evening was foiled by torrential rain, although a brave trip to the local shop by Hannah Fletcher and Carina Carter allowed the band to enjoy an evening in, despite nearby hotel residents doing their best to halt proceedings. The night, once again, ended up with a McDonalds delivery to the hotel in the early hours.

Day 8 (July 10th) Final gig

The morning consisted of rickshaw rides in the middle of Beijing. This involved having a small man cycle around to various areas in the older parts of town, viewing a traditional house built 500 years ago, with a communal courtyard in the middle and 4 separate houses on each edge of the courtyard (the typical way that many locals still live).

From here we went to our final gig of the tour, a “Music Communication” performance, sharing the stage with local school children and other university ensembles from across the globe. The ceremony ended with a presentation of a commemorative wooden scroll to the chairman of the band, Marc Hinken. Directly from here, we were driven to the local market, where we were given a quick lesson in haggling before being unleashed in the market to try our luck. After many bargains and the purchase of questionable quality goods, we went for dinner and prepared for our final night in China. Half of us ventured out (the others unfortunately being either ill or tired) and we headed to the highly-recommended student district of Beijing. Some truly outrageous dancing, singing and vuvuzela playing proved to be part of a very memorable night.

Day 9 (July 11th) Flying home

After breakfast the band left the hotel and embarked upon their final coach trip to the airport, preparing for the long flight back to the UK. After a minor disagreement with the baggage handlers over storage of large and expensive instruments, we said our goodbyes to China and an unforgettable tour.

3. Finance

Total cost: £709.85 per person for 26 people = £18,456.10

Funding Sources

Cost to members – £350 per person for 23 people = £8,050

Cost to non-members – £709.85 per person for 3 people = £2,129.55

Clubs and Societies tour board – £837.20

Tour fundraising gig – £700

Pro-rectors office – £7,000

Big Band SGI – £260.65

4. Acknowledgments

Many thanks to the Clubs and Societies tour board and to Mary Ritter (pro-rector for post-graduate and international affairs) for your financial support of the tour, without which we would not have been able to undertake such an ambitious expedition. Tour report written by Marc Hinken, with thanks also to Chaz Keiderling and Rob Fernandes.

ICDS (Drama Society) Summer Tour 2010

Edinburgh Fringe Festival 13rd -30th Aug 2010

Summary of events

A poem explaining the tour:

There once came some students from Beit,
Who went up to Edinburgh forthright.
They worked night and day,
to put on a play,
And like stars they shined so bright.

The weeks preceding

A lot of work went in before hand to make this tour happen. As well as the usual prep work, all the cast spent a lot of time rehearsing and learning lines, as well as a performance in London before going up to Edinburgh.

Day1 - Friday

We travelled up to Edinburgh as 2 groups by train, with minor incident - one person forgot their railcard, and had to buy another full price ticket. Journey took around 5 hours, and we got in at about 1900. While transferring from train station to accommodation 2 people had to walk to carry a piece of scenery; turns out Edinburgh busses don't let you take tables on them. We sampled the many delights of Scottish cuisine, mostly consisting of various greasy spoon outlets, and much deep fried goodness. Accommodation was a church floor, which we'd got though a contact in Every Nation Church.



Day 2 - Saturday

Limitations with accommodation meant that showering during the trip happened in the local swimming pool. Cast go straight into more rehearsals with line runs. Early start the following day, so no late night socialising.

Day 3 – Sunday

Technical rehearsal in the venue in the morning. We only had a 2 hour slot, but turned up early and squeezed a bit more time out. Henry helped to focus the theatrical lanterns, and attempted to get the projector to work, but time restraints meant that it was eventually cut. Cast did more rehearsals later in the day, as well as networking with the venue managers and discussing how the performances would work. Any final adjustments needed for the set were also noted and actioned.



First show week (Aug 16th - 22nd)

The first week was produced by Charlotte Ivison, who oversaw various duties such as keeping the accommodation in a fit state and ensuring the cast stuck to the flying schedule.

There were a total of six performances in the first week, with audience attendance dipping particularly on Wednesday and Thursday. General attendance was lower than hoped for, but never went below 6. The show started on time every day at 11 am, closing by 12:30 pm with the cast members who were not on stage for any given performance flying before the show, and cast members performing on a given day flying after the show, with the exception of Tania Garcia, an external who had been providing problems during the rehearsal process. The performances took place in the Space @ the Radisson on the Mile.

Actors not performing would instead act as stage hands during the performance, moving set as needed.

The final day of this week, the 22nd, was left for the cast and crew to see other shows (something they were also free to do during other downtime, of course) and generally relax.

Charlotte returned to London on this day, handing over to the show's other producer (who arrived the day before), Kristen Farebrother, for the second week.



Second show week (Aug 23rd - 29th)

Little changed between the weeks, other than that the issues with Tania escalated to the point that the producer (Kristen) decided that she had to be dismissed from the cast for failure to perform any of the necessary duties (agreed on before coming on tour) in line with her fellow cast members. Tania was never formally dismissed, however, and instead decided to leave (without informing her fellow cast or crew), heading back to London by train immediately after being given a final warning by the producer. The decision to dismiss her was made when she failed to show for flyering again the following day, though at the time it wasn't known that she was no longer even in Edinburgh.

Besides that, audience numbers remained steadily a little lower than we had hoped for and the performances themselves settled into a good routine. Some extra rehearsals were called to adjust for the loss of a cast member, but the cast handled this fine. Henry Whittaker also had to leave before everyone else, meaning that Kristen Farebrother had to step in to tech the show in his place, but this transition went smoothly.

Return to London (Aug 29th)

The remaining cast, crew and producer returned to London without incident – props and scenery borrowed from the stores in the Union were replaced and everyone went home, happy at the success of the tour.

Attendees

Charlotte Ivison
Kristen Farebrother
Simon Parker
Henry Whittaker
Chris Wyatt
Tom Veitch
Nigel Fullerton
Bec Whitby
Tania Garcia
Mary Benn
Nicholas Pearce
Luke Daly

Financial breakdown

The cost for each person that came on the tour was £200. Royalties and ground hire for the venue in Edinburgh were £736 and £1000 respectively. Travel costs were £446 and funding for the tour was £125 from the IC Trust. Set props & general consumables came to £410 and accommodation was £720. Ticket sales income was £944 after VAT tax.

Medics' Mountaineering Summer Tour 2010 – El Chorro, Spain

After the success of our spring tour to the South of France, this summer the Medics' Mountaineering club ventured further than we ever have before, to the town of El Chorro in Andalucia, Southern Spain. For the five full members it was an early start on Sunday 12th September, taking the EasyBus at 3am ready for take-off from Gatwick at 5.50am. Thankfully when we landed in Malaga the sun was shining, the sea was sparkling and the sky was clear, which put us all in high spirits. Our rental car was a spacious option to allow for us all to fit in with all the kit we had brought. And so our drive began, initially without a map, which led to a slightly longer journey to reach our villa than intended. En route we stopped off at a



supermercado to pick up some essential sustenance, including a considerable amount of cake, and it also gave the more educated members of the party a chance to exercise their (albeit limited) knowledge of the Spanish language. Sugar stores replenished, we wound our way round the mountain roads to arrive at La Casita Blanca, our home for the next week. The villa was fully equipped with all the essentials for our trip: beds – check; fridge – check; swimming pool – check. First things first, it was time for a swim. We spent our first afternoon by the pool, becoming acclimatised and appreciating the beautiful weather that had welcomed us.

Our first full day in El Chorro we packed all our kit, several litres of water, and went to find the section of crag called Frontales, where we'd scouted out some good looking areas to climb in our guidebook. On our way there we stopped to have a look at the famous gorge to work out what equipment we'd need to walk it – more about that later. We found sector Castrojo which was a section of Frontales with routes of varying grades such that all members could challenge themselves appropriately. After a hard day of climbing (with a couple of cake breaks) we made our way back to the villa to cook and prepare for the next day.



For the Tuesday, we had decided to do the famous gorge walk. The Camino del Rey (King's Path) is a famous feature of Andalucia, a narrow man-made walkway along the walls of a gorge, built for King Alfonso XIII in 1921. It is a via ferrata style walk around the edge of a mountain starting about 80m above the lake, requiring equipment such as harnesses, with hand holds and a metal wire to double clip yourself into such that you are always in contact with the wall. Some of the walk had a platform attached to the wall for your feet, though some sections involved traversing the mountain just using the rock itself. We worked our way around the corner of the mountain – the views

becoming increasingly impressive. Three of us reached the bridge which connected the two mountains: we were now more like 100m above the lake, and the platform was truly disappearing. As we made our way back down to our start point, the heat of the day was upon us, so on our way back to the villa we rewarded ourselves with a well deserved drink and ice cream in a café. Back at the villa we had a late lunch and then enjoyed the rest of the afternoon by the pool. That evening we took a walk around North of the villa, further up the mountain to assess the climbing potential in that direction.

Wednesday brought more climbing in the direction that we'd walked the previous night. We went to sector Austria, still in the Frontales range of crags. It was quite a scramble to get up to the bottom of the crag from where we could belay the routes so took a while to get started. We climbed late, as two of our members practised a new skill – multi-pitch climbing – which was very much enjoyed, though it became quite dark as they got to the bottom. This meant we had the challenge of doing the scramble back down to the path, with heavy kit bags, in the pitch dark, with a single torch to guide us down. It took a while, but with a bit of teamwork we all made it down without any injuries. A great sense of achievement reigned that evening when we had finally got back to the villa, celebrating by devouring burgers and cake at 11pm.



Waking up on Thursday brought the first sight of clouds in the sky. We decided to stay in that morning as we feared the rain would come, though by the afternoon it had passed and we were able to enjoy an afternoon of sunny climbing. We returned to sector Castrojo as it was nearby, and as we now knew the routes a little better we were able to stretch ourselves further. We tried harder routes, and the less experienced members learnt how to lead climb, an essential skill for outdoor climbing.

Sadly, Friday was not a day for climbing as overnight a storm had brewed, waking us in the early hours with thunder and lightning. It was still raining in the morning, so a few of us instead decided to make full use of the pool, knowing that it would have been too dangerous for us to climb in wet and rainy conditions on the slippery rock. As an alternative, we enjoyed a day of food shopping, card games, and reading. That evening we held a competitive game of Pictionary, which lasted an impressively long time, and some very... interesting pictures were produced.



Saturday was our last full day and thankfully the bad weather had passed, so we made best use of it by getting up extra early. We went first to sector Canada, a part of Frontales, not for the climbing there but for the scramble up to it which the guide book recommended. It involved a 20m lead up a reasonably vertical section, and then a further 50m scramble to the crag where we had extensive views across the region. We went back to the villa for some pool time and lunch for the hottest period of the day, before heading off for another



afternoon climb. We went further out this time, to the Escalera section of crags, to sector Suiza. Here we lead more climbs of harder grading, including another multi-pitch route. This did bring a fall for one of our climbers who, while reaching to put a clip in, could not quite maintain the balance needed for that clip. Not disheartened he carried on and made it to the top of the route. That evening we were very pleased with the day's activities and celebrated our last night.

Our final morning, Sunday 19th September, involved an intensive clean up of the whole villa, which thankfully did not take too long, allowing us to get away to drive to Malaga for an afternoon at the beach before heading back to the airport for our flight back to London. We had spent our budget efficiently with our villa a bargain find, which made up for the slightly more expensive flights than anticipated.

And thus our trip had reached its end and we were forced to return to firms, lectures and PhDs in rainy London. At least we had enjoyed our time away, another successful climbing trip in a new part of the world.



ICURFC

Tour of Japan 2010

25th June - 13th July

Not since the 50's and 60's has the Imperial College Union Rugby Football Club (ICURFC) sent so many tourists on an international tour. This summer, 41 members of ICURFC went on a gruelling 18-day tour to the land of the rising sun, visiting the ancient capitals of Nara and Kyoto, as well as the more modern cities of Tokyo and Osaka.

As we arrived at Kansai Airport in Osaka, we were pleased to see that one of our tourists had arrived safely and was waiting for us with a sign - as if it would have been difficult to miss 40 rugby lads, all wearing matching suits! Also waiting for us at the airport were representatives from Kyoto University Rugby Club, who had arranged for a coach to take us to our hostel in central Kyoto. A couple of hours later, we were at our hostel and were settling in to the two floors that had been assigned to us.

Our first set of games were the following morning against Kyoto University, the alma mater of South Kensington Kai President Shunichi Nakamura, however, this did not deter some of the lads to go out in search of bars and were feeling the effects of both jet lag and a hangover as they got on the bus. As we pulled into the grounds in Kobe, we quickly noticed there was quite a large crowd - this we were definitely not expecting.

First up on the schedule were the Imperial 1st XV, more commonly known as the Imperial Ninjas, well at least on this tour they were... Despite the heat and humidity, the Ninjas put in a great performance with Centre Joseph Brown scoring a hat-trick and Full Back Kieran Burge slotting 90% of his kicks that gave the Ninjas a 61-19 win. Not a bad way to start the tour! The Imperial 2nd XV a.k.a the Imperial Barbarians put in a brave performance against a Kyoto side that saw many of their Old Boys', however, the jet-lag, humidity and, ultimately, their hangovers, caused them to make small mistakes. In the end, the Kyoto 2nd XV came away victorious, winning the game 34-19.

After the game, we received our first taste of Japanese hospitality, and it definitely took us by surprise! Waiting for us in the function room were tables of beer, sushi and fried chicken (!); not only that, but Kyoto players, both past and present had arrived in great numbers to greet the touring side. After some chit-chat over some sushi and Asahi beer, the formal presentation and speeches commenced. In an effort to sound clever, Tour Manager Jovan Nedic, decided that his speech would be in Japanese and quickly scribbled down some phrases on the back of a plastic plate. Luckily the hosts seemed to understand, but just in case they didn't, Club Captain Tim Burr repeated the speech in English and also presented the Club with an IC shield, playing jersey and a silver tankard. That evening was definitely a memorable experience with the two clubs exchanging rugby culture - them, singing their club song to us, whilst we presented them with an Imperial College London tankard, full of beer and a rousing round of "Get it down, you Zulu warrior!"

There was a whole week until the next game and that time was spent sight-seeing the temples and shrines of Kyoto and Nara during the day, whilst socialising with our Kyoto hosts in the evening. It wasn't long before we found our way to the Karaoke bars where we also discovered that drinks were free with the singing - it was going to be a good night...

As the week came to an end, we said farewell to Kyoto and set off on the Shinkansen for Tokyo. It was here that we truly began to see the benefit of having a Japanese speaker in the touring party, as Hugh Jarman ensured that we got on the right trains. Despite his useful translation of the maps, I decided to ignore the fact that there was a subway station opposite our hostel and claimed that 400m was not that much of a walk... after 1.2km and with 20kg of luggage in wheelie bags that didn't really work, we realised that we probably should have listened to Hugh! At times, it was definitely Hugh who was leading this wandering group of foreigners, or gaijin as we were referred to in the streets!

Our first two games in Tokyo were both at the Tokyo University Komaba



TOURING PARTY:

ALLDRIDGE, James
AMIN, Sachin *
BANSAL, Mantej *
BARNETT, Louie
BLAKE, David
BROWN, Joseph
BURGE, Kieran *
BURR, Timothy
CARROLL, Thomas
CHALKE, Frederick
CHARLTON, Thomas
COGGRAVE, Thomas
COTTER, Caolan
COTTON, Thomas
COX, Oliver
DOWDEN, Robert
ESBERGER, Charles
FRASER, Robert
GORING, Jack
HEINING, Dominic
HILL, Colin
JAMES, Fraser
JARMAN, Hugh
JOHNSTONE, Nicholas
LANE, George
LAU, Christopher
LINDSLEY, Daniel *
MACDONALD, Joseph
MAITALA, Sasha
MARTIN, James
NEDIC, Jovan
NEWTON, Jack
O'ROURKE, Callum
OWEN, Alistair
PETTIT, James
POYNTON, Edward
SIMONS, Richard
SNAPE, Patrick
SPITTLE, Toby
THOMAS, Iwan
VAUGHAN, Edward

* Indicates Graduates who came on tour

campus; the first fixture was against Yokohama Country and Athletic Club - an ex-pat team - for the 2nd XV, whilst the 1st XV played Tokyo University, who it turns out had spoken to Kyoto and brought in some alumni players from the last decade to bolster their side. This was not going to be a good day for Ninja's, as ill-discipline and lack of composure set in, with three yellow cards being brandished for the game against Tokyo, the first of which was for the Tokyo flanker straight after the kick-off. The Barbarians had a rare luxury for their game, an English referee who played Northern Hemisphere rugby. This meant that scrums were straight and rapid for a change! After a shaky start, which saw Richard 'Chumble' Simons summersault after jumping into a tackle, the Barbarians found their feet and put together some good phases, however, their fitness gave way and Yokohama went on to win the game.

Three days later, the 2nd XV had their last game of tour against Kokushikan University, however, despite their best efforts, were unable to win the game, but were able to come away with some excellent presents.

Whilst in Tokyo, the Club made a trip to Mount Fuji, determined to reach the summit and make it back to the hostel all in one day. After several warnings from locals about the cold and altitude sickness, the touring party set off on the eight hour climb, but as the hours went on, the numbers climbing began to dwindle and in the end, only a few made it to the summit. One of the touring party members even managed to reach the summit and make it back to the bus station in five hours, a remarkable achievement!

After spending a week in Tokyo, the touring party made its way to the final destination of Osaka, where the 1st XV would play Osaka University of Health and Sports Science. The game was very tough and demanding on the players, and at half time, Imperial were narrowly losing 14-5, however, their superior fitness showed and Osaka went on to win the game 61-5. After the game, we were yet again blown away with the Japanese hospitality, not only were we given a commemorative t-shirt each, but they also presented the Club with a Samurai helmet, a present that will definitely have to reside behind a glass cabinet! If that was not enough, they also organised a mesmerizing Japanese Drum performance, where we were even allowed a go to create our own beat, however, it definitely lacked any sort of tune!

The tour was exciting, it was exhilarating and it was exhausting, but it was an experience that the players will never forget, and it would not have been possible without the generous support from Sport Imperial and the Old Centralians' Trust.

A big thank you to you all.



SPORT

The Adventures of Hugh Jarman and his Wandering Band of Gaijin

by Jovan Nedic

sponsored by:




results

Game 1		Game 4	
Kyoto 1st XV	19	Tokyo 1st XV	32
Imperial 1st XV	61	Imperial 1st XV	5
Game 2		Game 5	
Kyoto 2nd XV	32	Kokushikan 1st XV	26
Imperial 2nd XV	19	Imperial 2nd XV	0
Game 3		Game 6	
YCAC 1st XV	42	Osaka UHS 1st XV	61
Imperial 2nd XV	21	Imperial 1st XV	5

* Have a look at our Tour DVD at icurfc.co.uk/tour/japan/japan.html and you'll see what we mean!

Sports Editor: Jovan Nedic

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

It wasn't long before we found our way to the Karaoke Bars where drinks were free with the singing...

Not since the 50's and 60's has the Imperial College Union Rugby Football Club (ICURFC) sent so many tourists on an international tour. This summer, 41 members of ICURFC went on a gruelling 18-day tour to the land of the rising sun, visiting the ancient capitals of Nara and Kyoto, as well as the more modern cities of Tokyo and Osaka.

As we arrived at Kansai Airport in Osaka, we were pleased to see that one of our tourists had arrived safely and was waiting for us with a sign - as if it would have been difficult to miss 40 rugby lads, all wearing matching suits! Also waiting for us at the airport were representatives from Kyoto University Rugby Club, who had arranged for a coach to take us to our hostel in central Kyoto. A couple of hours later, we were at our hostel and were settling in to the two floors that had been assigned to us.

Our first set of games were the following morning against Kyoto University, the alma mater of South Kensington Kai President Shunichi Nakamura, however, this did not deter some of the lads to go out in search of bars and were feeling the effects of both jet lag and a hangover as they got on the bus. As we pulled into

the grounds in Kobe, we quickly noticed there was quite a large crowd - this we were definitely not expecting.

First up on the schedule were the Imperial 1st XV, more commonly known as the Imperial Ninjas, well at least on this tour they were... Despite the heat and humidity, the Ninjas put in a great performance with Centre Joseph Brown scoring a hat-trick and Full Back Kieran Burge slotting 90% of his kicks that gave the Ninjas a 61-19 win. Not a bad way to start the tour! The Imperial 2nd XV a.k.a the Imperial Barbarians put in a brave performance against a Kyoto side that saw many of their Old Boys', however, the jet-lag, humidity and, ultimately, their hangovers, caused them to make small mistakes. In the end, the Kyoto 2nd XV came away victorious, winning the game 34-19.

After the game, we received our first taste of Japanese hospitality, and it definitely took us by surprise! Waiting for us in the function room were tables of beer, sushi and fried chicken (!); not only that, but Kyoto players, both past and present had arrived in great numbers to greet the touring side. After some chit-chat over some sushi and Asahi beer, the formal presentation and speeches commenced. In an effort to sound clever,

Tour Manager Jovan Nedic, decided that his speech would be in Japanese and quickly scribbled down some phrases on the back of a plastic plate. Luckily the hosts seemed to understand, but just in case they didn't, Club Captain Tim Burr repeated the speech in English and also presented the Club with an IC shield, playing jersey and a silver tankard. That evening was definitely a memorable experience with the two clubs exchanging rugby culture - them, singing their club song to us, whilst we presented them with an Imperial College London tankard, full of beer and a rousing round of "Get it down, you Zulu warrior!"

There was a whole week until the next game and that time was spent sightseeing the temples and shrines of Kyoto and Nara during the day, whilst socialising with our Kyoto hosts in the evening. It wasn't long before we found our way to the Karaoke bars where we also discovered that drinks were free with the singing - it was going to be a good night...

As the week came to an end, we said farewell to Kyoto and set off on the Shinkansen for Tokyo. It was here that we truly began to see the benefit of having a Japanese speaker in the touring party, as Hugh Jarman ensured that we got on the right trains. Despite his use-



A group of intrepid travellers make it to the summit of Mount Fuji

SPORT



The drum show in Osaka after the game



ful translation of the maps, I decided to ignore the fact that there was a subway station opposite our hostel and claimed that 400m was not that much of a walk... after 1.2km and with 20kg of luggage in wheelie bags that didn't really work, we realised that we probably should have listened to Hugh! At times, it was definitely Hugh who was leading this wandering group of foreigners, or gaijin as we were referred to in the streets!

Our first two games in Tokyo were both at the Tokyo University Komaba campus; the first fixture was against Yokohama Country and Athletic Club - an ex-pat team - for the 2nd XV, whilst the 1st XV played Tokyo University, who it turns out had spoken to Kyoto and brought in some alumni players from the last decade to bolster their side. This was not going to be a good day

for Ninja's, as ill-discipline and lack of composure set in, with three yellow cards being brandished for the game against Tokyo, the first of which was for the Tokyo flanker straight after the kick-off. The Barbarians had a rare luxury for their game, an English referee who played Northern Hemisphere rugby. This meant that scrums were straight and rapid for a change! After a shaky start, which saw Richard 'Chumble' Simons summersault after jumping into a tackle, the Barbarians found their feet and put together some good phases, however, their fitness gave way and Yokohama went on to win the game.

Three days later, the 2nd XV had their last game of tour against Kokushikan University, however, despite their best efforts, were unable to win the game, but were able to come away with some

TOP: Imperial on the attack against Kyoto Imperial University
LEFT: Receiving the Samurai helmet in Osaka

excellent presents.

Whilst in Tokyo, the Club made a trip to Mount Fuji, determined to reach the summit and make it back to the hostel all in one day. After several warnings from locals about the cold and altitude sickness, the touring party set off on the eight hour climb, but as the hours went on, the numbers climbing began to dwindle and in the end, only a few made it to the summit. One of the touring party members even managed to reach the summit and make it back to the bus station in five hours, a remarkable achievement!

After spending a week in Tokyo, the touring party made its way to the final destination of Osaka, where the 1st XV would play Osaka University

Health and Sports Science. The game was very tough and demanding on the players, and at half time, Imperial were narrowly losing 14-5, however, their superior fitness showed and Osaka went on to win the game 61-5. After the game, we were yet again blown away with the Japanese hospitality, not only were we given a commemorative t-shirt each, but they also presented the Club with a Samurai helmet, a present that will definitely have to reside behind a glass cabinet! If that was not enough, they also organised a mesmerizing Japanese Drum performance, where we were even allowed a go to create our own beat, however, it definitely lacked any sort of tune!

The tour was exciting, it was exhilarating and it was exhausting, but it was an experience that the players will never forget, and it would not have been possible without the generous support from Sport Imperial and the Old Centralians' Trust.

A big thank you to you all.

Oh, and one more thing, I motherfucking heart the J-Pan!*



Palestinian Society tour report

On the evening of the 14th of September four of the intended party of ten Palestinian Society members touched down in the land of milk and honey (Israel to the more realistic amongst us). After three hours of the guy with a European name waiting for the three with Arabic names, followed by one tour member enjoying an entertaining game of 'accidentally abandon your bag then panic when security take it away', the tour got underway in earnest. The first night was spent by Damascus gate just outside the old city of ~~Jerusalem~~ Al-Quds with the group taking a midnight stroll along the cobbles, which were dripping with something stronger smelling than just history, and ending up by chance at the Wailing Wall. Only in Al-Quds could you just stumble across such a place in the middle of the night and still find it heaving.

The morning brought a trip to our main base, the ancient city of Nablus, via the much newer city of Ramallah. Upon (a regrettably late) arrival we were dropped in at the deep end by our host Alaa Abu Deir, sat in front of a conference room packed with eager students of the highly reputable An-Najah university. They all wanted to hear our impressions of their widely misrepresented country. It is telling that a recurring question was: 'Did you think we would all be suicide bombers and murderers?' – We didn't, but what would your answer have been, hmmm? Hands up all those who believe in the accuracy of the western media... The day ended with a wander around Nablus' commercial district in the company of a volunteer from the university, Diya, who showed us the hidden gem of a fully functioning dojo way up on the fifth floor of a building overlooking the Old City.

After our first morning teaching at the university (English, Public Speaking, Debating – obvious skill sets for the average Imperial Student) we had a quick tour of the university's exquisite new campus. Askar refugee camp (est. 1950) and the El-Lid charitable society were the next port of call, where we were to spend our afternoons working with children from the camp. We soon found out that we were in fact running the workshops on English, ICT, Drama and handcrafts rather than merely helping with them as expected.

Fortunately were given some time to come up with a game plan as following an introduction to the kids we left to visit Balata camp (est. 1950), Palestine's largest refugee camp. After a talk on the camp's history and a brief guided tour we decided to stay behind for coffee with a few of the locals to get a feel for the place, having been buried in its facts. This ended in a meal with Diya and a resident of the camp who has a master's in English and could quote more Shakespeare after ten years without practice than the average UK A-level student can in their exams.

The Friday was our day off and was spent with Diya in his home village. The hospitality we received was incredible – An introduction to the founders of the local youth centre, a sumptuous lunch chez Diya, a visit to his family bees and a walk up the local mountain complete with a lecture on the area's history from a local teacher and a chance to explore ruins at the summit that are as yet untouched by archaeologists, perhaps even unknown to them. Damn.

Saturday morning gave us a much appreciated lie in followed by what was to be the daily afternoon adventure of trying to engage with the children of Askar camp. Wild but rewarding may be the best description. A less wild but equally rewarding visit to the Nablus municipality office followed where we learnt all about the hard work being done to develop and maintain the City under a system of occupation that, if you were being generous, you could call 'disruptive' or perhaps 'obstructive'. That

would be very generous. With our evening free ahead of us an impromptu trip to the Dead Sea was decided upon. After a long journey, a missed turning and an accidental approach of the Israeli border we ended up in a compound surrounded by fencing complete with barbed wire highlights and an Israeli flag flying by the entrance. This was the 'Tourist Beach' and was wonderfully empty having only just opened following the Jewish Holiday of Yom Kippur.

The next five days followed the model of University teaching in the mornings and volunteering at the camp in the afternoons. There were of course notable highlights – Sunday lunch with the family of a tour member, dinners in both Balata and Askar camps with a tour of the latter, a tour of Old Nablus, a trips to its Turkish baths and the opportunity to attend a talk given by MK Haneen Zoabi, through which we organised the interview printed in Felix. There was also a notable low-light. An attempt to visit the Samaritans (the religious community, not the phone line) was abandoned as Israeli soldiers arbitrarily decided to deny us access despite being invited by a community leader. No matter, we got the presentation from the guy as he leant against his car 100m down from the checkpoint with our group squatted around a bus stop. Definitely beats a lecture theatre.

Thursday night saw the group return to Al-Quds so that the Muslims in the group could attend Friday prayers at the Al-Aqsa mosque. Regrettably the normal Israeli policy of only allowing Palestinians over 50 into the compound for prayers had been extended to include all nationalities, in a way making a welcome change from the privilege we had until then experienced. The day was spent exploring the city and its holy sites and ended in a Dinner at an incongruously western eatery in Ramallah where we met up with a couple of the society's Palestinian contacts.

Saturday saw us travel to Hebron (Al-Khalil), what the Palestinian's like to call the 'hottest of hot-spots'. It really was. A settlement established in the heart of the old city is being used to justify the systematic closure of shops in the local market and the prohibition of Palestinians using what was previously one of the town's main streets. We as internationals were, of course, permitted to use the street. We didn't. We did however visit a family living in a building surrounded by 'settled' houses, a family that cannot leave their house for fear that it will be squatted. You could see burn marks where a Molotov came through the window. We visited another house within the Israeli controlled section of the city. The owner has had numerous clashes with settlers. Both his sons' hands have been broken by settlers. His father was murdered by settlers. He refuses to give in, Insha'Allah he never will. He didn't display a desire for vengeance, only for justice, only for the right to keep his home and for his family to live there without harassment. Any objections?

The Ibrahimic Mosque, a holy place for both Muslims and Jews that is arguably the root cause of the particular unrest in Hebron, provided a beautifully refreshing break from the days experiences and a calming place to reflect on what had been seen. After a delicious feast of Khalili cuisine we left for Nazareth to visit the Church of the Nativity. Somehow our hosts managed to get us invited to the wedding happening inside, a fairly surreal end to a very surreal day.

Sunday was our final full day in Nablus and after our last teaching session at the university we had the pleasure of attending a closing ceremony at the El-Lid charitable society. It included singing, dancing and a play all performed by the children we'd been working with. It was a real joy although the subject matter of the play – the murder of an innocent Palestinian by the IDF and his brother's resulting arrest, torture and execution – was a keen reminder of the situation we were leaving behind. In the evening we visited a natural spring to which our hosts had invited a range of their other concurrent guests who were involved in various ways in the field of Human Rights.

On Monday morning we said our final goodbyes at the university and set out for Ramallah with Diya to meet one of his friends and the aforementioned associates of the society. After drinks at another uncomfortably westernised restaurant one of our number left for Al-Quds whilst the remaining three prepared for an impromptu trip to Bir-Zeit university the next day, at the request of one of its students, to attend a conference on the aid situation in Palestine. It gave a chance to really analyse the situation we'd seen for ourselves whilst hearing the opinions of a wide range of international experts (as well as providing us with free breakfast and lunch – ah yeah).

We reached Al-Quds late that evening after a Molotov was lobbed at the Israeli checkpoint controlling entry to the side of the city still under direct occupational control (the rest is 'just' indirectly controlled). There was no damage or in fact danger to us, the bus we were on or any of the other vehicles waiting (nor any of the soldiers or border police manning the post). The attack was aimed solely at the military facility itself; however it understandably caused quite a delay in the processing of vehicles trying to pass through. Eventually we got across and upon reaching the Old City headed straight for our hostel to find the remaining member of the group fast asleep.

Early on Wednesday morning, our last day, the group member who had left early to reach Al-Quds set off for Nazareth to meet with MK Haneen Zoabi to interview her for Felix whilst the remainder of the group snoozed on. The morning was spent wandering the streets of Al-Quds before posting home all that we had on us that suggested we had spent our time in Palestine. This was advised by our hosts to avoid being blacklisted (to later be denied re-entry to Israel) but also so that none of the Palestinians we had dealings with would come onto the Israeli radar. We then visited the Al-Aqsa compound, caught a quick barbershop shave to look presentable for passport control and headed for the airport by cab. We met the remaining group member there and, in spite of a full-on bag emptying search, had a fairly easy time of it in the airport. We arrived back in Luton late on Wednesday night and headed back to Kings Cross without incident

The main activities laid out in the original itinerary were all included in our eventual timetable. Trips to Hebron, Bayan (the spring) and Bethlehem were all included as was our work in the university and the refugee camp. As a result of far fewer people partaking in the tour than originally allowed for our hosts found it necessary to adjust the timetable significantly but always with our input and approval meaning that the tour was still a great success in the eyes of all those that went on it.

Imperial College Caving Club 2010 Summer Tour Report

Vodna Sled: Slovenia 2010

Summary

Vodna Sled 2010 was an epic success, with 4 weeks spent in the field camping on Tolminski Migovec with the special permission of Triglav national park. Excitingly, 2.2km of new cave passage was discovered, all below -500m. This was done using a 4-bed underground camp at Camp X-ray (-550m) in Vrtnarija as a base. The majority of discoveries lead from a horizontal series near Zimmer chamber, and there remains numerous un-pushed leads for future expeditions. Significant amounts of new passage was also uncovered in Tolminska Korita, where a connection to the 'deep' level (-653m) was found. The Republica streamway was pushed from -774m to -802m.

The expedition findings were presented to the Tolmin locals in a slideshow talk given by Jarvist Moore Frost (translated into Slovene by Jana Carga). This was very well attended, attracting about 100 people. A UK talk by Jarvist Moore Frost was also given at the Hidden Earth Caving Conference on 26th September 2010, and was met with extremely positive response from about 200 attendees.

The expedition members consisted of 14 Imperial Union members (students and ex-students), and 6 Slovenians from the local JSPDT club. This includes 3 complete expedition freshers, all of whom made it to underground camp – a very impressive feat. In all, about an extra 1 kilometre of rope was used to rig new passage (with more older pitches re-rigged with new rope).

An updated survey of Vrtnarija (in extended elevation) has been prepared, including transformation of all mountain survey data into grid north.

Objectives and aims

Our main tour objectives and fulfilment of them:

- Connect Vrtnarija and Sistem Migovec to form the longest Alpine cave in Slovenia

This has long been the dream of Imperial College Caving Club and will make the national news in Slovenia should the connection be found. However, as the cave system is completely naturally formed, some things are out of our control and unfortunately the actual connection was not found this year. We did, however, manage to reduce the distance between the two cave systems to less than 50m! This separation has been steadily decreasing over the years, and we believe that it is only a matter of time before the connection will be found.

- Investigate going leads in Vrtnarija, paying particular attention to the 'bottom' to find more deep cave passage

Working from our underground camp at -550m in Vrtnarija, over 2.2km of new passage was found below -500m – a very impressive achievement by any caving club, let alone a student one!

Expanding our underground camp from a 2-man camp the previous year to a 4-man one proved to be key in finding the new passage. This meant that at any one time, 8 (instead of 4) cavers could be

at the pushing front in the cave. This allows more leads to be explored and new cave passage to be surveyed more efficiently. We managed to push the deep Republica streamway from -774m to -802m, which was exactly the type of deep discovery we were hoping for.

The expedition also left plenty of deep, 'going' leads for future years of discovery.

- Train newest members to highest worldwide standard, which will also improve the level of caving at home in the UK

3 expedition members had only started caving in the past year, and were complete newcomers to alpine caving as their caving experience had been centred in the UK. However, all three rose to the challenge and made it to underground camp, which was at more than twice the depth of any cave in the UK. They also participated in the pushing of the cave, discovering and naming new passage for themselves. As a result of their summer tour experience, all three freshers have improved markedly in their caving technique and endurance. Older members also benefited from the trip; in particular, rigging skills and exploration were improved.

An updated Vrtnarija survey can be found at the back of this report, and a more detailed report of our discoveries made during the summer tour can be found on our club's website:

http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/caving/slovenia/intro/slov_intro.php

Tour Timeline

Day -5 (11th July 2010): Advance party (3 from UK + 1 from Hungary) fly out to Slovenia, set up tarps to catch rainwater on mountain top, carry snow from adjacent shake hole to fill barrels. Clean equipment left stored under the snow for 12 months.

Day 0 (16th July): Packed minibus leaves South Ken early evening

Day 1 (17th July): Disembark at Calais around 1am. Pass through Belgium to pick up a member, continue non-stop with rotation of drivers, arriving at Tolmin at 9pm. Eat Pizza. Let minibus cool. Everyone sleeps at a member's Tolmin apartment.

Day 2 (18th July): Alpine start delayed by torrential rain, two trips made with minibus from Tolmin to Tolminski Ravne (912m). Gear unloaded into a farmer's barn. All members climb mountain, a few on first wave make two trips (up-down-up) carrying gear to mountain top.

Day 3 (19th July): One two-man team makes initial descent of Vrtnarija to 'open cave', check situation and rig Laurel. All others on bounce trips to porter gear to mountain top. String deployed on mountain to entrances of M16, Kavkna Jama (M2), M18, Vrtnarija.

Day 4 (20th July): 10 cavers descend Vrtnarija. 5 tackle sacs portered for underground camp. 200m new rope installed, bolts replaced where rock was cracking. Urinal series rope replaced and rigging changed (a few new bolts), particularly in the replacement of some of the rebelay with deviations. Cave rerigged as far as ledge on Space Odyssey, most UG camp tackle sacs end up at head of Tesselator.

Day 5 (21st July): Majority of manpower spent finishing portering things from Ravne to mountain top. Two man trip rerigs from Space Odyssey to the bottom of Fistful of Tolars (start of Pink), and descend on the old ropes to Camp, depositing two UG tackle sacs they'd transported with them. Two man trip porter rest of tackle sacs to head of Fistful of Tolars.

Day 6 (22nd July): Last 3 tackle sacs taken underground with the four man camp setup team, which included two 1st year cavers. Additional 4 sacs at the head of Fistful are slow through Pink, arrive at camp after 6 hours and quickly setup the palace. Another 1st year caver arrives on night train and does first item of pushing (Korita), almost exactly 7 days after minibus has left south Ken.

Day 6 to 22 (6th August): Camp used extensively to discover, survey, document and photograph 2.2km of new cave passage.

Day 23 (7th August): Camp slimmed down to a '2 bed', extraneous exploration gear removed from cave.

Day 24 (8th August): Last night at camp, the two 'caretakers' met by a wave of four 'bouncers' from the surface at breakfast, and another two in the late afternoon. Camp derigged.

Day 25 (9th August): Vrtnarija derigged for the year, rope pulled up on wet pitches, Spitz greased with the syringes, cave closed.

Day 26, 27 (10-11th August): Mountain + Bivouac derigged. Multiple trips down. Good dry weather.

Day 28 (12th August): Day off! Also stood as contingency day if stuff left up mountain. Unfortunately rained all day, so little pleasure sun bathing by the Soca. Others worked on slideshow.

Day 29 (13th August): Further rain. Van packed for return journey. Slideshow in evening in Tolmin for the local caving and alpine club extremely well attended (~100 people). Van leaves shortly before midnight.

Day 30 (14th August): Traverse of Europe, ferry late afternoon. Back in London and van unloaded for 10pm.

26th September: 'Vodna Sled 2010' talk given at UK's National Caving Conference by Jarvist Frost. Extremely well attended (~200 people).

Financial Breakdown

FULL EXPENDITURE

Item Description	Unit Price	No. of Units	Total cost	Budget Head	Fixed/Variable
Bosch Uneo	£65.00	1	£65.00	Drill	Fixed
2x 8mm SDS-quick bits	£8.00	2	£16.00	Drill	Fixed
4 sporks	£ 5.50	1	£ 5.50	Underground	Fixed
10 of 63 x 115mm Aluminium containers	£ 9.24	1	£ 9.24	Underground	Fixed

60W Solar Regulator	£ 11.45	1	£ 11.45	Bivi	Fixed
2 x mono dome 210x140cm tents	£ 22.96	1	£ 22.96	Underground	Fixed
2 x NATO 10mm Highlander mats	£ 19.35	1	£ 19.35	Underground	Fixed
Wire + Plugs for Drill	£ 30.00	1	£ 30.00	Drill	Fixed
4 x 5Ah 12V SLA batteries		1	£ 0.00	Drill	Fixed
1.5A charger for 12V SLA	£ 14.49	1	£ 14.49	Drill	Fixed
O-rings for Bolts, 500g Grease, WD40, Smoke Pellets, CV270 Micro Stove	£ 38.14	1	£ 38.14	Underground	Fixed
Super Strong thumblock - Plastic bags	£ 6.54	1	£ 6.54	Bivi	Fixed
Dremel bits	£ 5.99	1	£ 5.99	Underground	Fixed
Ferry Tickets	£ 126.50	1	£ 126.50	Transport	Fixed
Ixos Cube speakers (UG Audio)	£ 3.99	2	£ 7.98	Underground	Fixed
5 x 10ml syringes for grease for spit	£ 1.99	1	£ 1.99	Bivi	Fixed
100 foot red US military '550' paracord	£ 4.21	1	£ 4.21	Bivi	Fixed
9m x 14m green polyethylene tarpaulin	£ 47.90	1	£ 47.90	Bivi	Fixed
2 packs hemline PVC/leather hand needles (sizes 3-7)	£2.91	1	£2.91	Bivi	Fixed
50 x Betty Boop Lighter Lighters Electric Refillable	£ 19.70	1	£ 19.70	Bivi	Fixed
Ratchet Spanner	£ 5.45	1	£ 5.45	Underground	Fixed
50m x 2mm Marlow aborist throw-line / cord	£ 8.50	1	£ 8.50	Underground	Fixed
NiCd/NiMh/SLA multi-cell charger step up from 12v	£ 21.00	1	£ 21.00	Drill	Fixed
2 x 3.7Ah compact sub-C 12V nimh packs	£ 48.50	1	£ 48.50	Drill	Fixed
6 Sigg Bottle screw tops (to replace ones missing 1995-2010)	£ 20.92	1	£ 20.92	Bivi	Fixed
New Kelly Kettle (Al. 2.5pts)	£ 41.45	1	£ 41.45	Bivi	Fixed
BBO Fan - you know it makes sense ! :)	£ 3.50	1	£ 3.50	Bivi	Fixed
SDS+ 400mm x 12mm drill bit (terrasaw) for feather+wedges	£ 3.99	1	£ 3.99	Drill	Fixed
10 x corded ear plugs	£ 2.59	1	£ 2.59	Drill	Fixed
5 x mess tins, 2 x foil emerg shelters, 1x 30HB-pencils, 1x 5 doc wallets, 2x super-thin rollmats	£ 11.00	1	£ 11.00	Bivi	Fixed
2 x church candles	£ 1.00	2	£ 2.00	Underground	Fixed
1 x 30cm wrecking bar	£ 2.00	1	£ 2.00	Underground	Fixed
2 x Gelert Micro Fleece Sleep Bag Liners (large)	£ 21.38	1	£ 21.38	Underground	Fixed
4 x size 21 sock-style Powerhouse mantles	£ 4.48	1	£ 4.48	Bivi	Fixed
Nido - 3 x 1.8kg	£ 25.00	1	£ 25.00	Food	Variable
Muji - nice booklet	£ 3.50	1	£ 3.50	Underground	Fixed
RS Duc Tape			£ 0.00	Bivi	Fixed
First Aid Bits	£ 30.00	1	£ 30.00	Bivi	Fixed
Rubble Sacks + 2 types of bin bags	£ 4.49	1	£ 4.49	Underground	Fixed
Rubble Sacks	£ 1.50	1	£ 1.50	Underground	Fixed
Food for Stores Sesh	£ 7.97	1	£ 7.97	Food	Variable
300mm Nun, Tupperware, 2x 0.4L beakers, 2x Acrylic hats for UG Camp	£ 9.25	1	£ 9.25	Bivi	Fixed
2x Gelert Nylon Repair Patches for Tents	£ 4.00	1	£ 4.00	Bivi	Fixed
Carbon BRushes for Bosch GBH 24v drills	£ 5.55	1	£ 5.55	Drill	Fixed
Sainsberg shop: 18 midget gems, 2x sets of tupperware, 8 x crisp 'n' dry @£0.80, bouillon, 10x ainsley couscous 2 packs, 34x oatcakes, 15x ryvita, 72x instant noodles, 3x basics veg soup cuppa, 2x 10 compost bags	£ 99.94	1	£ 99.94	Food	Variable
2x pencil sharpener. 15cm ruler :)	£ 0.55	1	£ 0.55	Underground	Fixed
Makro shopping	£ 401.37	1	£ 401.37	Food	Variable

Lidl shopping	£ 104.20	1	£ 104.20	Food	Variable
Asda shopping	£ 179.66	1	£ 179.66	Food	Variable
2x SIGG Bottle - Robert Dvaer - 2 for price of 1 + discount	£ 5.00	1	£ 5.00	Underground	Fixed
Replacement Wedge + Feathers	£ 6.00	1	£ 6.00	Drill	Fixed
Mushrooms	£ 5.00	1	£ 5.00	Food	Variable
Wholefoods - 2.2kg Soya, 2x 1kg p-nut but, soup mix, sesame seed, walnut oat muesli, 1 pack quick risotto etc.	£ 27.07	1	£ 27.07	Food	Variable
95 badges 38mm - big wow	£ 0.33	95	£ 31.35	Gifts	Fixed
Fuel - Dover	£ 38.24	1	£ 38.24	Transport	Fixed
Fuel - Homburg	€ 90.16	1	£ 76.02	Transport	Fixed
Fuel - Bergen	€ 77.05	1	£ 64.97	Transport	Fixed
Beam Benders' Dover	€ 9.99	1	£ 8.42	Transport	Fixed
Whisky (gift)	£ 59.97	1	£ 59.97	Gifts	Fixed
Ryman - Indelible Markers	£ 2.49	1	£ 2.49	Bivi	Fixed
Little Nun	£ 1.99	1	£ 1.99	Underground	Fixed
Toll. Austria	€ 9.50	2	£ 16.02	Transport	Fixed
Mercator	£ 0.00	1	£ 0.00	Food	Variable
Fuel - DE	€ 54.47	1	£ 45.93	Transport	Fixed
BAT - Fuel - DE	€ 85.45	1	£ 72.05	Transport	Fixed
Petrol Tolmin	€ 40.00	1	£ 33.73	Transport	Fixed
Lantern for UG camp	£15.00	1	£ 15.00	Underground	Fixed
Mercator - minus personal stuff	€ 32.24	1	£ 27.18	Food	Fixed
mercator - party food	€ 31.16	1	£ 26.27	Food	Fixed
Biscuits for Skala	€ 8.60	1	£ 7.25	Gifts	Fixed
Party Beer	€ 44.16	1	£ 37.23	Food	Fixed
Merc - minus spirits	€ 8.00	1	£ 6.75	Food	Variable
KZ - Food(?) Iced Tea	€ 32.49	1	£ 27.39	Food	Variable
Mercator - carry stuff	€ 85.97	1	£ 72.49	Food	Variable
merc - beer + etc	€ 8.75	1	£ 7.38	Food	Variable
Merc - minus spirits	€ 61.84	1	£ 52.14	Food	Variable
Slovenia Food – misc	€ 30.00	111	£25.30	Food	Variable
Beef	£ 11.99	1	£ 11.99	Food	Variable
Van food	£ 55.87	1	£ 55.87	Food	Fixed
Petrol	€ 20.00	1	£ 16.86	Food	Variable
Detergent to wash stinky stuff	£ 11.19	1	£ 11.19	Bivi	Fixed
Food / Drink for big party at end	£ 100.01	1	£ 100.01	Gifts	Fixed
Diesel - Tolmin	£ 57.62	1	£ 57.62	Transport	Fixed
Set of Junior Hacksaw + Blades	£ 1.00	1	£ 1.00	Underground	Fixed
Vango Thermos Flasks - 1x1L, 1x0.5L	£ 5.99	2	£ 11.98	Bivi	Fixed
Extra Daren Drums	£ 60.00	1	£ 60.00	Underground	Fixed
Fix Tackle Sacs	£ 15.00	8	£ 120.00	Underground	Fixed
Heavy Metal	£ 200.00	1	£ 200.00	Underground	Fixed
Standard Twist cartridge gas stove	£ 12.48	1	£ 12.48	Underground	Fixed
Church Candles for 2011 - 3x same size as 2010, 1x2.5	£ 5.00	1	£ 5.00	Underground	Fixed
Accommodation	£ 80.00	1	£80.00	Bivi	Fixed
Starless River caving gear – rope, bolts, etc			£ 735.00	Underground	Fixed
Fixed Bus Cost (1st + last week)			£624	Transport	Fixed
Variable Bus Cost (middle 2 weeks)			£ 448.00	Transport	Variable
BREAKDOWN					
Underground			£ 1,314.00		

Food			£ 1,200.20		
Travel			£ 1,628.36		
Drill			£ 213.12		
Bivi			£ 324.96		
Gifts			£ 198.58		
TOTAL			£4,879.22		

TOTAL INCOME

Item Description	Unit Price	No. of Units	Total	Budget Head	Fixed/Variable
Ghar Pharau Foundation Grant	£600.00	1	£600.00	Donations	Fixed
RCC travel fund	£308.42	1	£308.41	Grant	Fixed
Tour ticket	£284.00	14	£3,976.00	Ticket	Variable
TOTAL			£4884.41		

Conclusion

This tour has been one of the most successful in recent years, and the discoveries made were the fruit of the communal effort of Imperial College Caving Club and JSPDT members. As well as being proud of each metre surveyed we cannot forget about every metre a tackle sack was carried, each meal cooked, each bottle of drink safely ferried to camp.

A significant factor in our success is evident because it needs no mentioning: thanks to efficient and thoughtful organisation we did not run out of any goods, the stereo batteries were always full, the food supplies always reassuring, and morale was always high. Most importantly, we have no accidents to report.

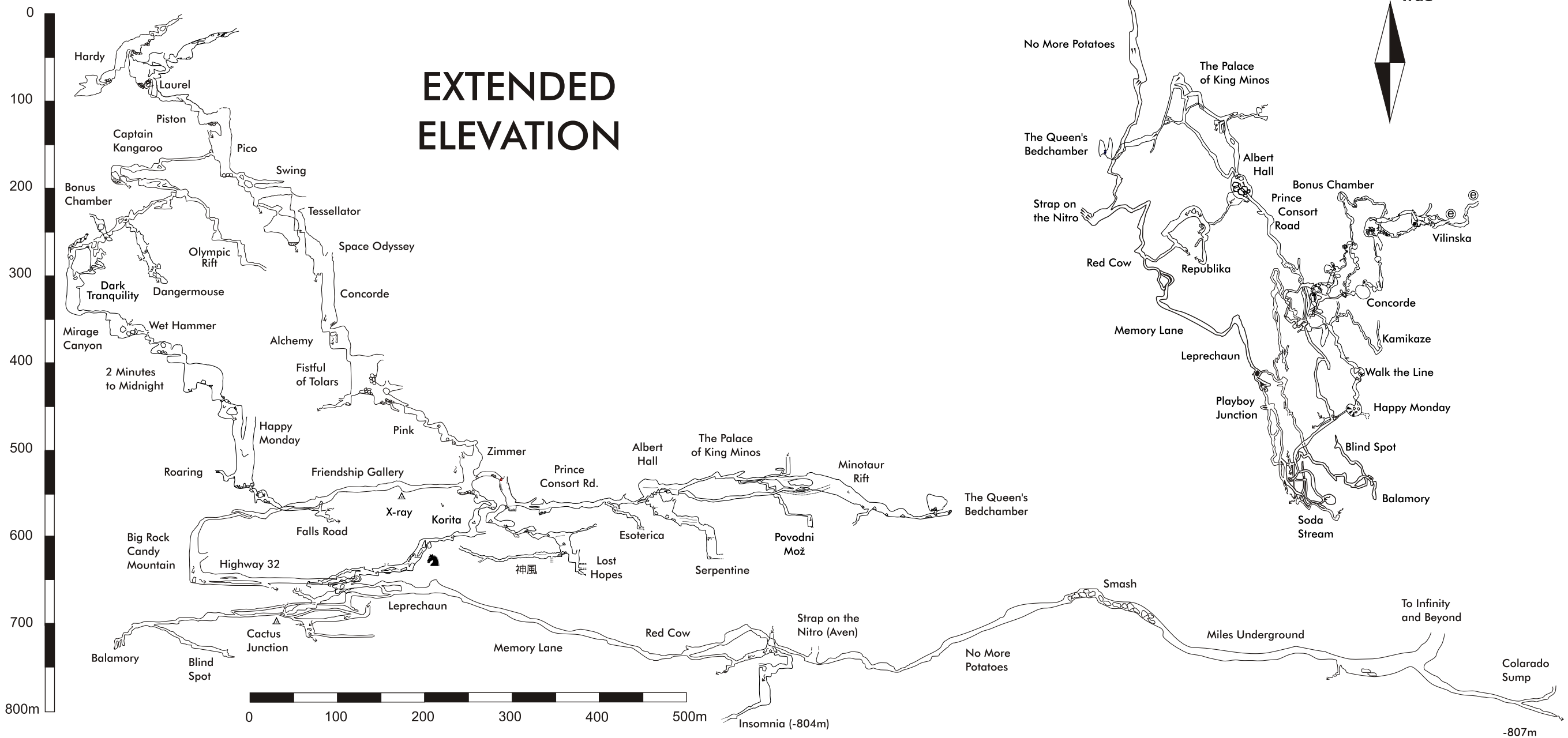
Outlook for 2011

When Vrtnarija and Sistem Migovec are connected, the cave will be the longest Alpine cave and 2nd longest overall in Slovenia – only 500m shorter than Postonjska Jama. When that happens, the longest overall cave in Slovenia will no longer be a dream, but a very possible reality. The cave is pushing -900m, and has the potential to be -1km deep with going leads at the bottom of Vrtnarija. The caving club is looking forward to achieving these landmark achievements in future tours.

Clare Tan
14th October 2010

VRTNARIJA

Tolmin, Julian Alps, Slovenia
Altitude 1794m
Depth 807m, Length 8776m
Location 540510 / 512398
Drawn by ICCC/JSPDT 2010
Surveyed to BCRA Grade 4B
Exploration 2000-2010



Imperial College Union Outdoor Club Summer Tour 2010 Report

31st July 2010 to 22nd August 2010

The tour this year was a great success with members furthering their mountaineering skills in an environment only available in the Alps. All of the members returned successfully with no injuries having furthered their skills in one of the most hostile environments in the world.

This year the tour started in the Saas Valley in the Valais Region of Switzerland. Accommodation was in Saas Grund in Camping Michabel for the majority of the week. This campsite provided an excellent central location in the valley allowing members to take advantage of both the Hohaass Cable Car and also the Saas Fee uplifts. During the first few weeks the weather was unsettled with only about half the days suitable for high altitude mountaineering. During the poor weather activities were undertaken in the valley including sport climbing and walking.

The uplifts and planning by the individual members ensured that the most was made of the good weather days, and whilst in the Saas Valley, ascents were made of Weimeiss, Allainhorn, Alphaubel and Jagerhorn. With three of these mountains over 4000m.

During the third week of the tour members decided to move to the Chamonix valley in order to climb on the Mont Blanc Massif as the weather was set to deteriorate even further in the Valais region. This proved to be a good move with weather being slightly more settled in the Chamonix region allowing members to further their technical alpine skills with several routes of up to grade Tres Difficile in the Valley Blanche area.

In the three weeks of the Summer Tour much was achieved by all with several 4000m peaks climbed, many difficult climbs of up to grade TD climbed, as well as members experiencing bivouacs at altitudes as high as 3850m.



Finances;

Cost per member: £658

Subsidy from ICU and IC Trust: £418.60 (for whole tour)

Andrew J McLellan

ICOC Summer Tour 2010 Leader

IC Judo on first ever tour in Japan

By Edouard Desclaux

This summer saw three players of IC Judo visiting Japan in the frame of a British University Judo Association training tour.

Wilhelm Kleiminger , Ben Browne and Edouard Desclaux, all part of the team who secured a Bronze at the BUCS Team Championships in March, were the three College representants; with the rest of the delegation including UCL, Cambridge and Oxford players.

Shortly after landing in Tokyo, we rapidly realised we were not the only *gaijin* (understand foreigners) in town. Passing the door of our very first hostel, we encountered our fellow IC Rugby Boys, recovering from what had seemed to be a very intoxicating night.

After a week of travelling around the mainland Honshu , including sake brewery and temple visits in Takayama, Sumo tournament in Nagoya, Gion traditional festival in Kyoto, we got back to Tokyo, all set for the start of the training camp.

Tokai University, just outside Tokyo was our first stop. Tokai was renowned for excelling in Sports and most importantly had recently won the National University Championships, which represents the biggest of all team championships in Japan. There we also met the rest of the coaches and players, most of whom we knew from previous competitions.

After a warm welcome by our Japanese host we got to settle down in our student accommodation where Portuguese and Swiss nationals team were also headquartered; in preparation for the Judo World Championships held in Tokyo the following month. We were then guided to the *dojo* gymnasium for our first training. Upon arrival, we were not disappointed by the training facilities: 1600m² of mat surface area filled with hundred of coli flowered eared bust most importantly stocky and very well trained Japanese judokas. Gym training started every morning from 7am, followed by three hours of Judo in the afternoon, 6 days a week on top of their university course. Technically, it seemed like they came from another planet. They use a very supple and explosive judo. Their very upright stance allows them to combine sweeps, hip and shoulder throw with style and elegance. What we were mostly amazed by was probably the culture of respect. On and off the mat, people always minded great respect and dignity, especially towards the older senior. This didn't prevented us, from time to time, to end up getting thrown in the wall by the youngsters who wanted to show what they were made and establish themselves in front of the head *sensei* (understand ex-world champion Coaches).

Slowly we got used to the intensity and technical level of the training, eventually, managing to give the Japanese some good fights.

Our next stop was at Tokyo University, number one academically speaking, which were not as physically tough, although the quality of Judo and intensity was unchanged: 10 times 4 minutes practice with no rest killed more than one of us.

Highlights of our time spent in Tokyo also included a formal reception at the British embassy as well as a memorable night in the Keio University old boys' members club. Finally we headed to our final destination, the International Budo University near Chiba, south east of Tokyo, which marked the last 5 days of our two week trip.

The very modernly designed university was based on the top of a hill and the block of concrete reminded us of a prison. The intensity of training was the same, although this time we could enjoy some technical session with their ex-World Champion head coach.

At night, the delegation found comfort in a delicious local tempura fried food restaurant, before ending at the local convenience store for ice cream for some and cold *Asahi* beer for others. Sometimes we were joined by a few Japanese players to go to some local *Isakaya*, Japanese typed pub, who could escape from their daily routine, although everyone was up at 6.30 the next day for the morning jog...

Apart from a few dislocated toes and broken fingers, everyone survived to what was a once in a lifetime and very unique experience.

The club would like to thank our coaches Joe Doherty from ULU, Chris Doherty from Oxford and Tony Sweeney from British university Judo for their kind support. This year's committee is looking forward to more success in this new academic year and would like to invite any new beginners or advanced players to our sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays in Ethos and at the Budokwai. For more info, please contact judo@imperial.ac.uk.
<mailto:judo@imperial.ac.uk>

Per Person

Travel to Japan

Description: Return flight, London-Tokyo (GBP)

July 9th & July 31st

700

First week travelling

Description: Travelling around Honshu with rail pass

Duration: 7 days

Nights in Hostel:

Price per night

Total hotel

Food per day

Total food

From July 10th to July 17th

7

6

20

120

15

105

Total per person

125

Traveling around to universities (Hotel and Food Provided)

Duration(days):

From July 18th to July 30th

13

Travel from Tokyo to Stop 1 (Tokai University)

10

Travel from Stop 1 (Tokai University) to Stop 2 (Tokyo University)

10

Travel from Stop 2 (Tokyo University) to Stop 3 (International Budo University)

15

Travel from Stop 3 (International Budo University)

15

Day to day expense per day

10

Total day to day expenses

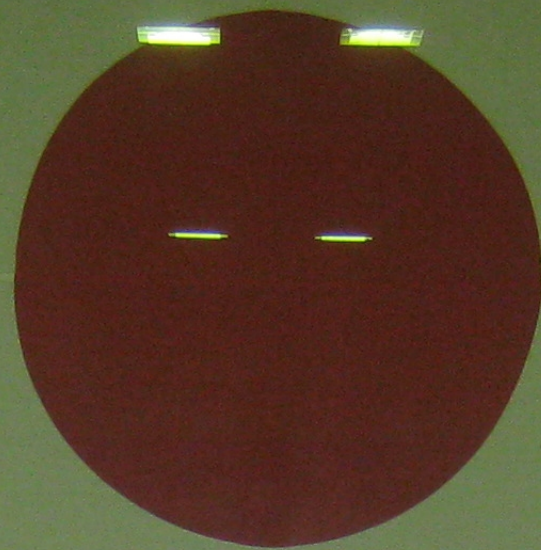
130

Total per person

180

GRAND TOTAL PER PERSON				1005
GRAND TOTAL for three members				3015

利己
を
つ
か







習うより慣れろ
Practice makes perfect



東海大学国際友好会館

TOKAI UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL RESIDENCE



Imperial Lacrosse Club Bath Tour Report

On the 3rd September the Lacrosse Club travelled to Bath to take part in the Bath 8s men's tournament. The tournament is a men's 8-a-side competition which attracts the best teams in the country and is the biggest of its kind in the UK. Although we failed to win a game, this was expected and we went more for the experience of high level lacrosse. There was also a more relaxed mixed tournament on the Sunday which our extremely successful mixed team managed to win following overtime against Bath. We took 17 members down for the tournament, slightly less than we had anticipated but still a good turnout considering the tournament was before term time. The grant we received for the tour was used to subsidise accommodation for attendees, meaning that accommodation for the weekend was very affordable as cost had been an issue with some club members.

We met on the Friday afternoon at Paddington station and travelled to our accommodation at the University of Bath. After leaving our things in our rooms we went back into the town centre for a meal that our social secretaries had booked for us in advance. Following the meal we got a few drinks and went back to our accommodation. Our new Canadian coach, Dustin McColl (who has unfortunately had to return to Canada recently due to family commitments), then gave the men a briefing on our tactics for the tournament. This lasted about an hour and then it was off to bed for an early night.

The next morning we were up early and headed down to the tournament. We had a while to wait before our first game and so we kitted up and had a leisurely chuck about with Dustin whilst he gave us some pointers. Our first game was against Sale and, although we were extremely disorganised and comfortably lost, we performed extremely well and scored a couple of goals in the 12 minute match. The next game saw us up against some much tougher competition; Mellor lacrosse club are one of the biggest clubs in the country. We were comfortably beaten without scoring a goal, but it was a good experience for the newer players helping them understand how physically demanding lacrosse can be.

Our next game was against the Coffin Dodgers; a team consisting of older players from Cheadle lacrosse club. We again played well and realised that our defence was getting better and better with each game. We scored again in this game; something that we were realising was quite an achievement. Our next match saw us square up against Sheffield University and although we lost our performance was again better than the game before and we were unfortunate not to score. Although Sheffield were another University, they have the advantage of getting at least a few highly experienced players joining as freshers each year. Comparatively for us, we have had only two experienced players join since 2007 and have had to train the rest of the squad from scratch. Considering this, taking 14 men to the tournament in the middle of the Summer holidays was quite an achievement.

Our penultimate game was against Brooklands, another one of the large clubs from Manchester. We were comfortably beaten again, however we were much improved compared to the Mellor game. Our greatest chance of victory was in our final match against Bath. We played extremely well against opposition who were closely matched to our standard. However, we were unfortunately missing our captain Jeremy Webb for this game and we ended up losing 3-2.

We stayed around to see the knockout stages of the tournament and to learn from the best players in the country. The final saw Timperley take on Stockport, the National champions and league winners. The two teams contained a large amount of the national side who had recently played in the world cup in Manchester, including the England goalie who we were to play against the next day.

After the tournament we went and showered before going out for some well deserved drinking in Bath.

We were up early again the next day and, nursing hangovers, travelled down to the rec ground again for the mixed tournament. There was a much smaller turnout than the men's tournament with only 5 teams entering. The teams included an armed forces side, a mixed club side from wales, a Bath team, a team consisting of Timperley and Stockport players (including the England men's goalie) and ourselves.

We drew our first game against Timperley/Stockport with our men's vice-captain Damien Powell scoring against the England Goalie. We won the remainder of our games which took us through to the final against Bath. This was a hard fought contest and ended in a draw which took us into sudden death. We almost scored immediately but missed an easy chance giving Bth the opportunity to come back at us. We quashed their attack which then ended up with Dan Taylor our mixed captain running up the pitch and scoring the winning goal, giving the mixed side another trophy for their cabinet. We then went for some dinner in a local pub before heading back to London.

The tour was extremely valuable to the club for a number of reasons. Firstly, it gave the men's players an experience of the highest level of lacrosse; not only to watch, but to play against some of the best players in the country including national team players. The level of lacrosse played at the tournament was in a different world compared to the BUCS league we play in and gave the less experienced members an idea of how to improve their game.

Secondly, we spread the name of Imperial Lacrosse, not just by winning the tournament on the Sunday but just by being at the prestigious tournament.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we made a great deal of contacts whilst at the tournament within the lacrosse community. These contacts have helped us with the following: find two more coaches to replace Dustin, organise friendlies for the freshers, get discounts on equipment and provide us with generally helpful information.

Ultimate Frisbee Summer Tour – Burla Beach Cup, Pisa, Italy

17th – 20st September, 2010

12 Full Members attending (no non-members)

For a full summary, see below for the report written by the club secretary. On a briefer note, we were very pleased with the outcome of the tour, achieving a fourth-place finish in our division. Our aim, 'to play to the best of our ability and to compete at a high level at Beach Ultimate, while representing Imperial College', was well met, with us facing teams from all over the continent in closely fought matches. Our goal, 'to place in the top eight in our division', was also achieved.

There weren't any major issues to report from tour. There was a minor injury sustained by one of our players on the Saturday night, and combined with the heavy drinking that had accompanied it, he decided it best to sit out the next day's play. Other than that, there were a few early-morning headaches and some stiff limbs, all of which came with the territory.

Tour Report:

The discDoctors' summer tour saw twelve Imperial students travel to Italy for the BURLA Beach Cup. Teams from across Europe met at Viareggio, near Pisa, to compete across three divisions of high-quality Ultimate in a tournament which saw Imperial gain a top-four finish in their division. While Ultimate is most commonly played on a grass pitch, this tournament is unique in the Imperial calendar in that it was played on the sand of the Viareggio beach. Fortunately Imperial were given time to acclimatise to these after their first opponents failed to reach the tournament, resulting in an Imperial walkover.

The first competitive game came that afternoon, against the Italian side Furie Romagnole. Building on a morning of practice, the discDoctors played well against a skilled side, grinding out long points to earn a victory. One hour later and Imperial returned to the pitch to play another Italian team, Delafia. The discDoctors took victory by a comfortable margin and prepared for the final game of the day against Mythago, the Bristol University team. Knowing the Bristol team well, Imperial scored several quick points to take the lead and, thanks to an impressive defensive showing by the dD girls, maintained it to win the game.

Having won the group, Imperial progressed into the second group stage of three highly-ranked teams. The Imperial team put in strong performances to dispatch another Italian team, Jacuzzi, comfortably, before a crucial match against Lemmings, from Leamington Spa. Knowing that this team were strong contenders in UK mixed tournaments, Imperial were glad to take the early lead. The Lemmings rallied and scored several points without reply, giving them a one-point lead as time ran out. Fortunately Imperial kept composure to level the scores, before winning the game by a single point.

The win put the discDoctors into the quarter finals, against one of Germany's best women's teams, the Woodchicas. Imperial faced this team at the same point in the tournament last year but a disappointing showing by the Woodchicas gave Imperial an easy victory. Once again Imperial took an early 3-1 lead but, after some good early flow, began to capitulate and conceded six points without reply. The discDoctors replied by playing hard and, with a wilful disregard for their bodies, fought back to draw level and once again took the game by a single point.

The Saturday night party took its toll on all the teams, but the discDoctors suffered not only from hangovers but also an incapacitating injury to the eventual most-valuable player. The Sunday morning match saw the weakened Imperial team face the Goats of Destiny, the University of Bristol alumni team, and the discDoctors lost out to the side that played better on the day. The first loss of the tournament put Imperial into the third-place playoff against a team from the University of Warwick. With the Warwick Bears regularly finishing at the top of the BUCS Championships, the discDoctors rightly expected a tough game. Imperial put in a spirited performance against a clinical side, but their zone defence was too strong and proved Imperial's undoing, being beaten to the podium at the very last hurdle.

Finishing fourth in the division of twenty-eight demonstrated the Imperial team's depth and versatility. The tournament was the last competition for several graduating players, including Samuel Hurst, Chris Tutill and Magnus Wilson, but bodes very well for the upcoming university season.

Financial Breakdown

Some costs were incurred in Euros, so for the purposes of this breakdown, the current rate of £0.874 to €1.00 was used. The first table details the travel costs:

Description	Amount
Flights	£1153.33
Trains – International	£312.11
Trains – Regional	£17.49
Taxis to campsite	£87.43
Total	£1570.36
Tour subsidy	£386.40
Percentage	24.6%

This table documents the non-travel spending of the tour:

Description	Amount
Tournament entry	£1014.28
Accommodation	£1007.29
Total	£2021.57

The final summary for the tour is shown in the last table:

Description	Amount
Travel costs	£1570.36
Non-travel costs	£2021.57
Tour subsidy	-386.40
Total	£3205.53

Attendees varied wildly on personal expenditure (food, drink, merchandise), as the accommodation was self-catered. Some spent as little as £50, others spent up to £200. The rough, unscientific average was probably around £100 each.

MTSOC Tour 2010, Budleigh Salterton

22nd July to 7th August

Days 1 to 4

The lorry is loaded at the union in the morning, Dramsoc crew, old lags and tour committee travel down early with the lorry. To start setting up for the show, and trying to make Johns ridiculous plans a reality.



Day 3

Cast arrive and begin final rehearsals, and rehearsals with the full band. The scout tent is erected which is our social evening venue located in a random field somewhere so MTSOC frivolities do not scare the locales.

Day 4 to 5

Tech rehearsal and dress rehearsal.

Day 6 - 10

First week of show run. With numerous social event in the scout tent every evening. The standard Budleigh routine starts up with lunch in the feathers then delicious ice cream from the creamery consumed on the beach.



Day 11 Sunday

Middle weekend dinner, we managed reached the venue safely after a coach journey with an over enthusiastic driver.

Day 12 Monday

Chance for a full fay off and to recover from copious amounts of port consumed. Most people went to watch a film in exeter and have a nice meal.

Day 13 to 18

Starting with the second dress rehearsal to remind everyone of what to do after the weekend, with some small alterations to the script by the cast.



Day 18 to 19

Final show, followed by an all night strike and lorry load, with the return journey on the sunday.

Aims

We succeeded in putting on a successful show and brought in good audiences most nights who all enjoyed the show very much. The middle weekend dinner was also a great success due to a change in venue to a much nicer location and better food at a smiler price.

Financial breakdown

The tour funding is used to subsidise students travel, as each student makes there own way down to Budleigh the subs for accommodation are subsidised for students. The student subs cost £45 and the full price subs cost £70. The show took a total of around £12000 from ticket sales.

Changes for next year

We would like to go on tour for 2 days longer to allow a longer setup time in the venue and a longer strike time, rather than the current rushed affair of leaving.

Budleigh Song

I like the feathers,
I like the creamery,
I like the pebbles,
I like the scenery,
I like the barbecue when the lights are low.

Signing du-wop a du wop du-wop a du wop

Canoe summer tour report

25th Driving

Tom booked 8am ferry as it was cheap, hoping no one would notice when we turned up for the 8pm ferry instead. Then after Mark's fail with the booth women and subsequent extreme blagging in the driver's lounge we changed ferry times and the bus got on the 7:20 ferry.

26th Slalom Course

Driving across France day. The first muppet points were given to France for having confusing motorways. We all arrived at the new campsite, very similar to the old one but with more ants and a gnarlier river next to it. Rob arrived a day earlier than expected and we all got on the L'Argentière slalom course. Tom L had a swim to introduce himself to Alpine rivers.

27th Upper Guisane

All rivers seemed to be at higher levels than previous years with plenty of lively moments. Muppetry occurred early today with both Ant rolling within 100m and Rob failing a ferry glide, being washed into a tree, and losing his paddles. Bonus muppet points go to Mark and Joe for chasing off down river after the paddles only to find them on the bank 5m down from where Rob was all along.

28th Onde & Gyrone

Onde was as people remembered it, one long fast flowing bouncy boulder garden. Portage at the barrage now requires you to climb through a pipe to get to the Gyrone, which was also flowing pretty well. Tom L started off the muppetry today with taking a dip early on and losing his paddles. Tom H and Joe gave good chase but never found them.

Next up was the grade 6 portage where Tom L, Rob and Rachel all carry on further than normal, get on for a few rapids and then Rob and Rachel organise a synchronised swimming lesson meaning two boats, a set of paddles, a Peli case and all the foam from Rob's boat setting off down river. All kit eventually collected this time, with the first group who were getting worried at this point driving the minibus down to where people and kit were strewn along the river bank.

29th Briançon & Durance gorges

Briançon gorge was first, short but fun with energetic 2+ with bit of 3. Kayak shoot was running with Ally shooting unsuspecting people with a water pistol on their way down it. Rob split his boat somewhere and promptly sank.

Durance gorge was run by a few who came back and said that it could be an everyone river as long as you know where the portage was. Tom H's eye swelled up which was cured by finding the coldest thing to hand, burgers.

"I could have been a turd floating down that rapid!" - Mark

"The OCD inside me is warming to the idea that I die on my birthday" - Joe

Rik practised his driving skills back at the campsite with Ally in Ralph's car. There was some worried running around and making sure that yes Rik had actually put it in first instead of reverse. Rik eventually parked much to the relief of everyone.

"I need a beer" - Ally post Rik driving experience

30th Upper Guil & Sunshine Run

Upper Guil was run with not much carnage to report, a few rolls and Rob trying to drown himself, so quite normal behaviour.

A quick drive over to the Rabioux campsite allowed some to attempt the Rab and carry on down. Again apart from rather rubbish driving there was not much that went wrong.

1st Upper Ubaye & Bachalard

Upper Ubaye, like everything else, was higher and faster than previous years. An efficient start saw us getting changed in a cold valley as the sun hadn't reached the river yet. A nice sunny day met us down river with a sheep deciding to jump in (and get 3 muppet points for subsequent swimming). Tom L leaves his drainbung out, which is the first of many times over the next few days.

The Bachalard is a grade 4 with tight bends, meaty drops and lots of trees. Ant decides to open the swimming after only 25m after getting stuck in a hole. Tom L followed suit a bit further on after finding a strainer. Rob and Rachel got on further down where it looked a bit easier but was still a 4. Groups were split up and Mark (who had burst Betty and was slowly sinking) misunderstanding signals and taking Tom L off leaving Rob and Rachel to join the second group.

A jet black tributary flowed in just above a small village which confused Rachel and prompted a swim. Mark and Tom L found Ally and the bus waiting for them on a bridge and then had a long wait for the rest of the group to arrive.

"I just couldn't believe Betty had burst!" - Mark

2nd Upper Guil & Chateau Queyras & Rabioux

Tom L started off the muppertry with a forgotten buoyancy aid but the rest of the river was run without incident. There was plenty of punch in some of the stoppers, particularly around the gorge section but all run it confidently and fast.

Next up was Chateau Queyras which only a few decided to run, beforehand though Joe had enough time to get extremely sunburnt over lunch. Mark made an good attempt at broaching Betty across a narrow point and then had a roll in an interesting eddy before making it to the end.

A few decided to try and surf the Rab, some managed longer than others.

We then moved down to the lake at La Roche de Rame where some went for a swim, Ally decided to run up the hill. Tom H had a woman completely strip and bend down in front of him before jumping in the lake herself and swimming over the Rik to ask for cigarettes.

Went out for a meal at the Vallouise microbrewery where Mark failed to pick up the waitress. It all went wrong when her boyfriend walked in. Rachel, Rik and Tom L decided to eat all the different kinds of pancake the restaurant had.

3rd Gyronde

The Gyronde was higher with trees and quite pushy. A rather long portage by the first group lead Ralph, Rob, Ally and Tom L into thinking the others had gotten off. Everyone was reunited after some long faff and carried on down to the Slalom course.

Another trip to the lake at La Roche de Rame and then Joe, Ralph, Rik, and Rachel set off home.

4th Middle Claree

A new river for some people the Middle Claree proved a challenge, low volume but steep with some sharp rocks and continuous 4 from the start. Rob had a swim after over thinking a little slide drop, once again everything came out of his boat. Ant swims whilst chaseboating and breaks the visor on his helmet. Everything was recovered after some searching along the banks. Tom L gets more muppet points for leaving his drainbung out.

All drove up the Biaysse to see the higher grade 5/6 section. At the top there was a waterfall which most climbed up a path to get a good look at. All decided that we just weren't feeling up to it.

5th Middle Guil

Mark started this day with forgetting his deck, which may have broken his concentration as he goes onto swim (but self-rescue) at Triple Step. More muppertry followed by Tom L as he dropped his boat into the river whilst on the portage around Letterbox and again leaving his drainbung out. Callum jumps in to livebait it out, only to find the water is 20cm deep. A few decided to run the rapid with Mark electing to go down it backwards. Ally failed to roll after going over on the last rapid before the takeout, he got to the side before realising why his roll failed, there was only one blade left on his paddle.

6th Sunshine Run & Gyr

Tom L still hadn't learnt what drainbungs were for as he picked up some more points for leaving it undone at the start. Ant followed with the muppertry with a nice seal launch into some shallow water meaning a roll even before he had started.

The Sunshine run kept true to its' name and a nice relaxing day was had. Tom H and Rob failed to recognise the Rab which led to some quick power strokes! Tom H found a French boat after the Rab and towed it to the end.

Most decided that relaxing was not for them and went to the torrent that was the Gyr. Tom L had a nasty swim near the top and walked the rest of it. More beer from the microbrewery was had at the pub next to the Gyr after everyone had been found.

7th Upper Ubaye & Ubaye Race Course

A relaxed run down the Upper Ubaye which was lower than before and now an easy grade 3. A quick lunch was had in which Mark's prized football was viciously kicked into the river by Tom L, meaning a quick scamper down river and a wade out to rescue it.

A keen group of Tom H, Mark, Callum and Ally take on the Ubaye Race Course which proved to be fun but not too pushy. Fast progress down river made life hard for the video crew of Rob and Tom L.

Back to the lake at La Roche de Rame for some relaxing and to watch a lone German cyclist try to outshout a room full supporting the other side in the World Cup.

8th Durance Gorge & Fournel

Most got on the Durance gorge with main features edging an interesting grade 4. Lots of recovery space after drops which for the most part was not needed.

A quick drive up to the Fournel with most practising their boof strokes.

A nice meal was had at the Le 5 Saisons restaurant in Freissinières with a nice sunset and lots of stars to gaze at on the journey back down to the campsite.

9th Glacier Walk

A rest day was called for and Ally suggested going up to the glacier which feeds the Onde. Rob decided to go for a swim in one of the lakes near the top before leaving to go home while everyone made it up to the Glacier Blanc refuge.

10th Bonne

We decided to break up the journey home by stopping to run the Bonne. After watching some French boaters miss a livebait and muck up the grade 6 we got on. The heavens opened which led to the gorge like river filling up fast and the visibility decreasing rapidly. The grade 6 was successfully portaged and after some more gorge the river opened out to allow a rest before reaching the end.

11th Drive home

Camped near Dijon and carried on driving until we reached Calais. Saw the last of the sunshine before entering a massive bank of cloud on the other side of the channel.

Thanks to all involved, it was awesome trip as usual with some new rivers ticked off and some old favourites conquered.

ICUAFC (Football) Summer Tour – Budapest and Bratislava

26th June to 3rd July 2010

The original proposal outlined the main objectives: experiencing football in a European setting, with the associated styles. To allow members to experience different cultures as a group.

We played four matches whilst on tour so experiencing European football was definitely achieved. As we travelled for a week, there was plenty of free time whilst recovering between games, so the whole group were able to experience these two historic cities at their leisure.

Expenditure

Air travel Out – 1825.78

Air Travel Return – 2360.60

Hospitality – 1738

Train Travel (Budapest to Bratislava) – 572

Tour Dinner – 315

Tour Shirts – 420

Pitch and Referee Costs – 130

Total – 7361.38

22 Members were paid for, but only 21 attended. Travel and Hostel costs were therefore paid for 22, but dinner and shirts were for 21.

Saturday 26th June 2010 – take coach to London Gatwick Airport, fly to Budapest, Hungary

Easyjet

Ticket price £83.99pp

London Gatwick (South Terminal) to Budapest (Terminal 1)

Dep **26 June 2010** 14:35

Arr **26 June 2010** 18:05

Flight 5445

Check in at Suite Hostel in Budapest.

Sunday 27th June 2010 – 1st Match - Budapest Celtic F.C. (A) vs ICUAFC.

Tour of Budapest with players from Budapest Celtic.

Monday 28th June 2010 – 2nd Match Budapest Celtic F.C. (B) vs ICUAFC.

Tuesday 29th June 2010 – 3rd Match Budapest Clovers FC vs ICUAFC

Wednesday 30th June 2010 – Take train to Bratislava at 14.30.

Check in at Downtown Backpackers hostel

Thursday 1st July 2010 – Rest day

Friday 2nd July 2010 – 4th Match – KPMG Bratislava F.C. vs ICUAFC.

Take tour of Bratislava

Saturday 3rd July 2010 – Flight back to London Luton airport

Ryanair

Ticket Price £107.30pp

From Bratislava (BTS) to London Luton (LTN)

Sat, 03Jul10 Flight FR2307 Depart BTS at 15:35 and arrive LTN at 16:50

Fellwanders Summer Tour Report- Junfrau region Swiss Alps

This year's summer tour was a giant circle in front of all the big pretty mountains in the Swiss alps. The morning of departure almost led to a 20% reduction of the whole group, Ande (the trip leader!!) had foreign currency issues and Jim almost couldn't get on the bus to the airport, but we did all manage to get on the plane and once that happened, I fell asleep pretty much until Wilderswil, the sort of start of the official hiking part of the trip. So not much I can really say about that.

Once at Wilderswil, we found the campsite and set up the tents. The campsite itself was very nice and Ande started his favourite trip habit of grabbing the nearest foreigner and unrelentingly talking to them, after he met the lady that ran the campsite. We had a meal of cous-cous and salmon that got better: it sounded disgusting (it doesn't when you just say it), tasted ok, and then during lunch the next day when we were all starving it tasted really great. This was a theme of the food, the hungrier we got the better it tasted. In all honesty though, I cannot fault the food and I am assured by the rest of the group who have been on many trips before (including ones Chris has cooked for, God help them) that the food for this trip was actually the best so far and the idea of extra dinner as lunch the next day was pretty genius, so well done Jim.

So the next day, we got the mountain railway up to Schynige Platte, which went without any problems, as you might expect..... Wrong. On the way back we saw the mountain railway come apart as it left the station so we appear to have been quite lucky. Anyway, so this was the start of the real walking and on this day we walked from Schynige Platte to First via the Faulhorn (2686m). Jim is awarded full man points for his effort here as we walked all the way up with the big bag, the rest of us left our bags about 70 meters lower than the peak (I think roughly) and walked the rest without them. Then we walked on to First, the end of the walk was timed to perfection, not really we walked the last 40 minutes in ridiculously heavy rain and then got to the hut. As we were cooking dinner, Jim had the first porridge spillage disaster of the trip, his bag of porridge had come open and the rain had made it actually form porridge and stick to all his stuff and the hallway when he emptied out his bag. We also ate SPAM that night, enough said.

The next day was lovely and warm (a continuing theme for the trip, the weather was amazing, if a little too hot on quite a few of the days), and we walked from First to Grindewald, a fairly civilized valley town. On this walk we really started to get our first views of the amazing mountains we were going to see throughout the two weeks. We walked past the Wetterhorn and were heading down to the valley. At this point, Jim, Joe, Ande and Ben decided to go on an extra walk somewhere however (and this will become an emerging theme) I decided on the easier option and walked down to the valley to the campsite.

The campsite at Grindewald was also very nice, next to a stream. The town was about 10 minutes away and we went shopping for dinner and food for the next few days walk. Except I didn't because I fell asleep. On a concrete block, very classy. So Yvonne, Peter and Rafal did the shopping and kindly woke me up and took me back to the campsite. After much discussion we decided to stay at the campsite for an extra day, the justifications being we could eat more food, therefore carry less

up the mountain and there was more to do in Grindewald than Alpiglen in terms of rest day fun. So we booked in for an extra day. Jim, Joe (these two didn't actually have a rest day for the whole trip!) Ande and Ben decided to go on a walk and the rest of us learnt crazy dominoes, courtesy of Rafal. He won... coincidence? I think not. But then Yvonne and I beat Peter and Rafal at bowls. So balance was restored, despite allegations of witchcraft.

That evening Chris arrived. The only advantage being we now had a pack of cards which made evenings more fun. I'm joking. There wasn't any advantage there was a net loss. We also watched a world cup match on the TV at the campsite, can't remember who won, or even who played, but either the Netherlands or Spain won because it was a semi-final.

So the next day I took the easier route up to Alpiglen. We got there just before lunch, ate lunch and got shown into a lovely hut. There was also a big waterfall that we had a quite look at and another waterfall by a stream that we had a quite wash in. Then we played cards, spoons was particularly fun, as was cheat. The next day we walked on to Kleine Schliedegg, past Eiger- Monch- Jungfrau. Jim, Peter, Joe and Ande all "climbed" the North Face of the Eiger. We then walked on to Kleine Schliedegg to a campsite behind a restaurant and were joined by some rather charming French children and some musical goats. The restaurant had a lovely view of Grindewald and the route we had walked. The next day we started our descent back into a valley, we went to Schetlberg to the campsite Rutti. This was another nice campsite location-wise, but some thieving foxes stole mine and Yvonne's lunchboxes (they just couldn't resist the taste of the amazing Polenta we cooked....) and the washing machine stole Rafal's socks. Very strange. We decided to extend our stay here by another day and do a day walk up to a hut? Where Jim displayed his likeness for Gollum climbing down a moraine and trying to fish in a lake on the way back.

The next day was the walk up to Rotsokkehutte and the very welcome rest day via lunch with some pasta with powdered milk and garlic sauce. We got to the hut really impressing the owners with our massive bags and obvious hardcore hiking spirit, only to disappoint them the next day by lying in and going on pathetic short walks. This hut was the nicest place we stayed, we had a lovely view of the mountains, the people that owned it were absolutely lovely and the food was amazing and from an inexhaustible source: we actually managed to fill the bottomless pit Jim up both nights in a row.

On the rest day, Jim and Joe went off and did their mental walk down to a hut somewhere miles away and up something that people with climbing gear turned away from because it looked a bit hard. The rest of us did a mixture of either walking up to a pass nearby that had a view of some mountains further on and then swimming in a lake made of snowmelt (freezing but beautiful) or staying in the hut playing games. There was some rather sweet American kids who watched the game, giving out handy tips and insulting Ande, so they were pretty popular with everyone, especially Raf who got on with one in particular like a house on fire. We had another night of lovely food and discovered the game Blokus, a sort of funny variation on tetris that was completely impossible to everyone except Ande who almost exploded because he couldn't quite believe we made the moves that we chose and kept asking scary questions like "But why did you put that there?" When you had no idea but just wanted to put something down.

So after having a lovely rest and all the food we could possibly eat, it was the day to do our first and only summit of the trip: The Schilthorn, just under 3000m. We divided into two groups for this,

there was a going round route and then a slightly easier going back on itself a bit route. Both were a bit precarious, but we got to the top eventually, only to discover that high heels weren't allowed. There was much disappointment from Ande and Chris who had carried theirs all the way especially. There was a massive cable car all the way up the mountain, because well the Swiss don't seem to see a mountain without thinking it would be better off with something on/in it. There was a cable car load that arrived about when we did and Chris and Ande accosted some poor tourists and told them all about our trip for hours (I am told it was the other way round and they wanted to know about our trip but I'm not sure either Chris or Ande know how to stop talking so...).

While we were up there we watched a video about the Schilthorn being the set for the bond film "On Her Majesty's Secret Service" which featured not just clips from the Bond film but a lot of cheesy shots of Switzerland and a crazy dancing lady dressed in white who popped up every so often for no apparent reason. The view from the Schilthorn was fantastic, we could see all the lovely snowy mountains, we saw the Eiger-Monch-Jungfrau set again and all the mountains further round, it really was spectacular.

We walked down to Blumenthal to camp behind a restaurant again that had a trampoline (!!), Raf had his first ever go on a trampoline. We also washed the MSR pots properly for the first time on the trip. They were SO SHINY. Then we went on down to Suls to the hut there. We had our last night dinner which didn't quite trump the infamous Gouda cheese cake of last year for ~~incredibility~~ inventiveness, but was at least tasty. The starter was a slightly bizarre tinned meat and pastry twists thing (the less said the better really) then we had some chilli which resembled real chilli in that it was made with smoked sausage, ginger and celeriac..... oh wait it didn't resemble chilli at all. The win of the evening was the waffles with fried pineapple, chocolate, condensed milk and apple puree. We managed to time the meal perfectly so that we finished eating before it rained. The next day was the final walk back down to Vildersvil to complete our circle. We stocked up on chocolate to take home and alcohol to drink and went for the last supper in a local restaurant. Ande had started the black spot halfway through the week and lost the game but refused to do anything. Rubbish.

The next day we went to Zurich to get the flight home. We spent a few hours there looking around at all these lovely shops we could never afford to buy anything from and then went to the airport to find out flight had been delayed, by what was to become 4.5 hours. But some of us managed to swindle EasyJet out of an extra food voucher, ha! We showed them..... We did manage to get the plane in the end, it was a bit of a squeeze because after 12 some sort of noise reduction law meant there were no flights allowed and we boarded the plane at quarter to, but it happened and we got back.

Epilogue.

Yes this trip report has an epilogue, it isn't actually part of the trip but perhaps worth a mention. Basically, some of us had planned to go to a birthday party straight afterwards but as we landed at about 1, I certainly wasn't going to be doing with all that. However, Joe, Raf, Jim and Ande all decided to go anyway, arriving at 3 in the morning after deciding the worst case scenario they could camp on the beach. Quite a heroic effort from all of them.

Imperial College Fencing Club 2010 Summer Tour Report

The club received £289.80 from the Imperial College Union which was spent on flights, the total cost of which was £1755.00.

It started a week earlier, on the 18th June, as the fencers, escaping from their exams got to the villa they had rented in Mellieha for the competition.

The next morning saw the men's foil entrants, find a cab and get to the morning's fencing. They started well, after the first round two of our fencers were placed joint first. Jack Patten of Imperial, thrown by the very different styles of fencing shown by some of the continental fencers, was knocked out in the quarter finals, leaving only two remaining, who unfortunately met each other in the semi final. The fight was long and close, but in the end Guillaume Joubert managed to pull the victory from Chris Gilliam, who ended coming in third. Guillaume faced Maltese fencer Pierre Bianchi in a fast and furious show of swordsmanship, finally defeated however, earning a silver medal and the respect of the opposition.

The men's saber event saw the same group going into the fastest of the three weapons. Again Jack, the saber novice, was knocked out in his first direct elimination fight, but this time Chris and Guillaume almost effortlessly moved on to the finals against each other. After a back and forth fight Guillaume managed to shut down the wrist hits that Chris had used to get to the finals, earning him the gold that had been denied him earlier in the day, with the Chris' silver bringing the medal count to four after only two events.

The last event of the first day was a fun team saber event where all of the fencers were mixed up to let fencers from different countries and at different skill levels to interact in a less competitive setting. Even fencers who rarely use a saber, including two epeeists from Devon, picked one up for a bit of fun.

The next day began the women's events, though rather than being the official Malta open, the two women fencers from Imperial were competing in the St. Paul's Fencing Club Challenge, a new event run by the same fencing club which holds the open. Starting early meant that the decision was made to rent a car for ease of travel, and Beth Jelfs kindly offered to be the driver for the tour.

As the men were relegated to the sidelines, the women started on foil, which neither had a particular love of. Despite this, both moved through the initial stages of the competition with little trouble, adapting to the more unusual styles of fencing on display. Unfortunately, as with the men, they ended meeting in the semifinals, with Beth slowly out fencing Emily Bottle, to move on to the finals. In the final Beth met her match in German fencer Barbara Schormair, letting her bring home the silver medal, and Emily the bronze.

The epee event, being Beth's least favorite weapon, saw her knocked out in the quarterfinals. Emily destroyed any competition she was up against, however, as this is her primary weapon. The finals saw her comprehensively defeat German epeeist Vanessa Klaas.

The team event of the day was epee, which even the men got in on. Even Jack and Guillaume picked them up – despite neither of them finding them the most interesting weapon, and Jack having never used one before at all!

In the week the fencers took some time to explore the country, whilst more fencers arrived for the rest of the week, and to do the second weekend competition. On Monday they headed out to try diving, which Chris and Beth decided to spend some more time on. They also enjoyed a meal in the capital Valletta with the competition fencers and their spouses. Tuesday was spent at St. Paul's Fencing Club for some training with the Maltese and some of the other international fencers, and two fencers from Devon, Jim Pilkington and Scott Willis, who help organise the British contingency at the open. They spent some time exploring Mdina, a fortified town in the hills, a relic and monument to the military history of Malta as a naval staging point for several wars. On Friday they took a couple of speedboats out to do some snorkelling and have a look at the nearby islands of Gozo and Comino.

The second weekend started with the men's individual epee event. After a round of poules Chris had opened into a good position, while Jack's inexperience in epee had left him in a mediocre position, and lead to him being knocked out in the first round of direct elimination. Chris managed to make it through to the quarterfinals, defeated by British fencer Eddie Crofton, who was only defeated in the final by Pierre.

Then it was time to start the open for the women's events. The first weapon was epee, and once again Emily found herself quickly leading the pack. She even defeated her mother in the semi-finals, to face off against fellow Imperial Joan Chang in the finals. Joan's style gave Emily pause in the first set, but was finally broken in the next set, winning Emily the gold, and Joan the silver.

The afternoon saw the team foil event. This had lots of entrants as most fencers start by learning foil and despite everyone trying hard to beat everyone else, the atmosphere was jovial. The competitors had become close over the week.

The last day of the competition opened with women's foil. The our fencers put on an impressive display, with four of the top five fencers being from Imperial, Hannah Bryars beating out Emily in the semi-finals and Alice Mitchell in the final, for a nice gold, silver, bronze run, with Beth being just outside the medal zone in fifth.

The last individual event was women's sabre, where imperial did even better, the top five being entirely Imperial. Alice took fifth and Joan and Helen Pennington became bronze medallists. After some back and forth in the final Beth took silver and Hannah earned the gold. Another team sabre event was the last event of the day, and the competition, this time with mixed gender teams, a chance to say goodbye with some light hearted stabbing.

The team returned home the next day, 28th June, happy and victorious.

The aims of this tour can be considered achieved. The team fenced against different styles than would be seen in Britain, knowledge of which they will be taking to competition this year. We were also able to show the skills that Imperial have been developing over the years, by coming home with five gold medals of eight and sixteen of an available thirty-two in the individuals in total, as well as many more in the team events. We were also able to show the collected fencers that we are an open but tight group of fencing enthusiasts. The only minor change to the proposal was that no fencing was done with the En Garde Fencing club due to an unfortunate clash of hastily scheduled events that they were dealing with. Nine total members were taken, seven of them full members of the club.

Imperial College Underwater Club (ICUC)

Portland Summer Tour 2010

17th September – 26th September

Dominic Andradi-Brown

Introduction

Portland, Dorset, is one of the best diving areas within the UK due to the large number of ship wrecks located on the sea bed off the coast outside the harbour. These wrecks are mainly in the 20-30m depth range and are tide restricted resulting in very early starts or late evenings to dive them. As a club we visit Portland for short weekend training trips within the sheltered Harbour area (depth 10-15). Due to the nature of weekend training trips, training people who are inexperienced and only having 2 days - it is not possible to build up enough experience within all members of the group of people we're with to dive many of the wrecks that attract divers from all over the world. We planned to change this!

So in the Summer 2010 we went to Portland with a very different mission! The plan was to take a mixture of more experienced divers and divers who have recently qualified and spend a week progressively building up to bigger and deeper sites. By going for a week we hoped to achieve what is not possible during normal weekend club trips allowing the newer divers to build up experience, so they can take full advantage of some of the best sites the UK has to offer!

Tour Participants

We took 12 Full Members and 5 Associate Members of RCC Underwater on the trip.

Full Members:

*Giulia Grimaldi
Jonathan Ely
Theodor Bergstrom
Nicholas Higginson
Richard Cameron
Jenny Mizen
Martin Selby
Dominic Andradi-Brown
Michael Squire
George Tzallas-Regas
Rosa Macey*

Thomas McCarthy-Ward

Associate Members:

Olle Akesson

Thomas Jewell

Ben Thompson

Jo Simpson

Judith Seidel

Detailed Tour Schedule Breakdown

17/9/10

Packed up minibus (UZX) and car and left London approx 1800. Arrived into Portland (Pebble Bank Caravan Site) at approx 2130.

18/9/10

Dived the morning slack on the wreck of the Aeolian Sky (Dive 1). An amazing dive to kick off the week! The 2 members unable to dive this site practiced their boat handling skills.

In the afternoon we dived the wreck of the Countess of Erne (Dive 2) in rolling waves enabling everyone to dive. A nice wreck that wasn't too deep so perfect for the 2 divers who needed a shake down dive to get themselves refreshed. As it was a Saturday and this wreck had already been dived by another group that day and the visibility had been significantly reduced, allowing members to have some low-visibility diving practice.

19/9/10

The morning dive was planned to the Elena R, but unfortunately on route we had a few minor boat problems and so we decided to return to the harbour (closer to shore) to dive rather than risk putting divers in the water in open sea. Therefore everyone dived the Spaniard (Dive 3).

During lunch we sorted the problems with the boat but to make sure we decided to stay close into shore again and so dived the wreck of the 'unknown dredger' (Dive 4) outside the harbour walls.

20/9/10

With the boat (mostly) working we hit the open sea again for a high speed drift down the East Side of the Isle of Portland (Dive 5). This was great fun, although the current was a tad stronger than we really wanted, but it certainly gave people a very fun dive!

In the afternoon we dived the 'unknown dredger' (Dive 6) which was a really enjoyable scenic dive.

21/9/10

The big one! This morning we dived the M2, a huge submarine! (Dive 7) This was one of the key dive sites that we wanted to build up to and get everyone diving. With the exception of 1 person who had a few minor ear problems with the diving yesterday, everyone got out on the boat and took an active role in searching, locating, spotting and then recovering the shot from the wreck. This was a great skills practice opportunity. The dive itself was stunning, some of the most dense marine life I have ever seen in the UK.

In the afternoon, we dived the 'Landing Craft', a shallower more accessible wreck (Dive 8).

22/9/10

Today was the planned rest day from diving, so everyone kept dry! Instead, during the day, we went for a scenic tour of nearby Dorchester. In the evening we went on an ICUC cinema trip to see 'Piranhas 3D' in Poole. It was highly educational and everyone enjoyed it immensely!

23/9/10

This morning we decided to return to the Countess of Erne (Dive 9). The visibility was much better than before and everyone was surprised to see a fairly intact wreck there – rather than rusty bits of metal and a lot of silt that we previously saw!

For the afternoon dive (Dive 10) we went to the Bombardon Unit.

24/9/10

After the success of our previous M2 dive everyone was desperate to go back, so with the slack times becoming more reasonable we headed back out to sea! The dive itself (Dive 11) was just as good, but on the way back we had a pod of dolphins join up and ride the boat waves through the races off Portland Bill. Truly amazing to see!

After this morning's deep dive we decided that we wanted a chilled out afternoon so visited the wreck of the Spaniard (Dive 12).

25/9/10

Our final full diving day. After the problems we had previously when we tried to dive the Elena R we wanted to dive it today (Dive 13). We got out there with plenty of time, searched and located the wreck on our depth sounder, so far so good. Then we spotted it, the shot appeared to be on the wreck from the depth sounder. When we got in the water the first thing we noticed was that what we had thought was a very mild gentle current was actually a bit stronger than that! At the bottom of the shot line we found..... a stunning, amazing.... muscle bed – no wreck! So we had a chilled out drift dive over some extensive muscle beds.

In the afternoon we did a scenic wildlife dive in Balaclava Bay (Dive 14).

26/9/10

For our final day, because we had to head up to London this afternoon we decided to shore dive. We did 2 relaxed dives (Dives 15 & 16) off Chesil Beach in the Chesil Cove area.

At about 1300 we all jumped in the minibuses and returned to London, making good time and being back at the Union at 1630 to unload and wash kit.

Changes to original plan

We were able to maintain our original plan for the trip as proposed to the Union, including diving many of the example dive sites that we suggested we would want to do.

The one change was that we stayed in caravans rather than camping like we originally suggested. This change came about because we realised that it cost very little more to stay in caravans than camp, and caravans are much more pleasant for a long dive trip.

Financial Breakdown

Only Full members costs were subsidised using the Union Tour Funding.

The full breakdown of the costs are below:

Minibus Hire	£414.00
Minibus Fuel	£88.59
Caravan Hire	£887.40
Food	£464.71
Boat Fuel	£276.75
Car Parking	£37.95
Air/Nitrox Fills	£201.00

Imperial College Underwater Club would like to thank Imperial College Union for providing Summer Tour Funding to help support this trip.

Porto, Portugal

IC Sinfonietta

22nd-29th September 2010

Attendance:

Total Participants: 55

Full Members of IC Sinfonietta: 50

Not Full Members of IC Sinfonietta: 5

Financial Status:

The tour received two grants:

IC Trust: £1542.10

C&S Board: £711.90

Each participant paid a total of £300 for the week including travel, accommodation and some meals. People who did not attend for the full week paid less, according to the length of their stay.

Aims and Objectives

Two of our primary aims as music societies are to further the musical experience and standard of our members' playing. One of the most effective ways of doing this is through touring and performing in different countries to experience different cultures. An additional aspect of this tour not present in previous tours, was that the programme for the concert was not pre-prepared (i.e. music played during the year) but was learnt during the week and then performed in a final concert in the prestigious Conservatorio da Musica do Porto. This meant slightly more time rehearsing than in previous years, but also meant that the group bonded much better, working together to achieve a challenging goal.

We managed to succeed in our objectives, playing a well received concert to a reasonably large audience at the Conservatorio.

What Happened...

Everybody leaving with the main group (i.e. not coming late) flew from Gatwick Airport on Wednesday 22nd September at the reasonable time of 11:35 with EasyJet! This was a total of 52 people, all of whom arrived at the airport on time (and no near misses!) and arrived safely in Porto Airport at 13:55.

Accommodation was in the Residencial Cristo Rei hostel, which was right in between the city centre of Porto and the waterfront, where most of the nightlife/restaurants were located.

Rehearsals were every day in the Conservatorio (30 minute walk) from 11:00-14:00, and a variety of rolls, cold meats, cheeses and cakes were purchased from the nearby Bolhao market, at a price of 6 cents per bread roll, to provide brunch for one hour before each rehearsal. This was because the timing of the rehearsals left us with not many options for lunch, due to the Portuguese custom of having a siesta in the early afternoon! There weren't any complaints though and there was always plenty of food. Instruments, stands and music were left in the rehearsal room all week.

At the end of the week (Monday), Sinfonietta performed their concert in the Conservatorio playing Stravinsky's "Circus Polka", Sibelius' "King Christian II Suite" and Dvorak's 8th Symphony to a total of about 40 people including, staff and students of the Conservatorio, parents and general public.

There were several events organised and paid for by Sinfonietta for the members. On the first night in Porto, Wednesday 22nd, a group meal at the Abadio Restaurant was organised. Each member received appetisers upon arrival, a main course, and drinks up to 12 euros for free. Everyone attended a boat tour, also paid for by the orchestra, which took us up the scenic river in Porto, giving a commentary on the many different bridges we passed (this particular aspect was much more interesting for certain civil engineers than everybody else!) The penultimate event organised was a tour of a Port Factory, in which the group received a tour of the factory and description of how everything worked along with a free sample of port. The tour party on Tuesday night, was the final event organised, with a 5 course meal and then drinks just down the road, to finish the tour off! Tuesday also saw most of the orchestra head to the beach for their last day.

On Wednesday 29th, everybody flew back together at 14:55, arriving in Gatwick at 17:20.

Members Impressions

Only one quote really needs repeating:

"This was the best tour I've ever been on, except Croatia – and I am biased about that, since I did organise it!" – Hilary Wood, van driver, ex-chair Sinfonietta chair and Sinfonietta Matriarch.

Photographs



Figure 1: Most of the group – post concert in the Conservatorio



Figure 2: Our very own Daniel Capps in action at rehearsals



Figure 3: The View from the Boat



Figure 4: Fireworks!



Figure 5: The River by night



Figure 6: fun and games at the beach

ICMC Summer Tour 2010 – Kalymnos

Day 1 (15th September):

Flew out to Kos from Gatwick after a 3am start, Lizzie is woken up by a phonecall 10 mins before the Easybus leaves but somehow makes it in time. From Kos we take taxis to the port, a ferry to Kalymnos and then a bus to Massouri. Eventually we arrive late on in the afternoon at Babis bar in Massouri on Kalymnos, our accommodation for the trip. As it was getting dark when we arrived at the bar we decided to go for a swim in the pool and eat rather than attempting to climb.

Day 2:

We faffed with gear/breakfast till 10:15 then headed out to the Poets sector, the closest to Babis bar. Kip managed to forget his shoes and attempted to Alistair's size "too small" downturned bouldering shoes to much hilarity. Kip flashed his first 6a (after going back for shoes) and Ruth did her first sport lead (5a). Dac lead a 5a that she found "nice" called Pindaros. The bolts on "Sevasti" (7b) were found to be in silly places which was a shame as the bottom of the route involved wrestling with an incredible tufa feature. Climbing halted at mid afternoon due to climbing not been possible in the sun, we decided to wake up early the next day to climb for a greater amount of the day. At dinner that night Lizzie claimed that she could taste the fennel (despite the herbs not been fennel) and the phrase "getting involved with" was deemed acceptable.



Figure 1 - Johan climbing at Poets

Day 3:

Up at 5:30AM! (It was still dark) to beat the daystar at its own game. Breakfast of two eggs and bread is already getting slightly sickening. Kip took a big fall while clipping on a 6b+ and decided to sac the rest of the day off. Cheehan found a mobile phone charger and learnt how to belay. Johan found that the phrase “just bisioning around” annoyed Alistair. Ruth tried a 5b but weighted the rope due to deficiencies in route finding.

Day 4:

Lisa Beats Kip’s tour fall distance record by falling from the last move of the 40m route Trella (7a). Johan managed to climb 9 routes in a day with Dak and kip managing 8 as part of a group of 3. Alistair flashes Trella for his first 7a flash (climbed without falls on first attempt). We had lentils for tea, they were tasty.



Figure 2 - Chris being lowered from the incredible 40m route Trella (7a)



Figure 3 - Lisa gets to grips with the incredible start of Sevasti (7b)

Day 5:

Babi took the cool kids to a crag that had all day climbing due to the presence of a north face. Meanwhile red point club (Lisa, Alistair, Cheehan) had a rest day. Johan and Johnny both flashed 6c. Kip learnt how to tie in with a bowline knot which is quicker to undo than a figure 8. Dak tried a 6c for the first time.



Figure 4 - Lizzie climbing

Day 6:

Rest day for everyone who wasn't in red point club. Red point club went and red pointed some more. Everyone else went and hired scooters and became a crazy motorbike gang for the day which involved going to the supermarket for cheap food and 1.93euro/1.5L wine and riding the mountain road to Vathy and Pothia. This was the best day of Fresher's life. Cheehan flashes 7b+ despite having never lead outside before the trip! And Lisa almost redpoints 7a+. Kip doesn't hold up well on the paint stripper wine (methanol content?!) and falls asleep early.



Figure 5 - A typically concise Greek road sign

Day 7:

Fresher and Kip embarked on the first multipitch of the tour at the 'School' sector of Kalymnos. 'Platon' a five pitch route: 4c, 5a, 5b, 5c, 4b. This was Kip's first multipitch climb but as the first two pitches were easy it was decided to simul-climb (leader and second moving together) them for speed. This was extremely fun and the first two and a half pitches were dispatched in between 5 and 10 minutes, thus showing the speed advantage this style of climbing has. As the climbing became harder and more technical towards the end of the 5b pitch they switched to belayed climbing for the end of this pitch and the following pitch with Fresher leading. The final pitch was lead by Kip with big run outs (big fall potential due to spaced protection) presumably because the first ascensionist had run out of bolts. The view from the top of the ridge line the climb went up was pretty spectacular, unfortunately for weight saving we brought no camera. The whole climb took a surprisingly brief period of time; been dispatched including abseil decent before 1:30pm!

Alistair dispatched the route Zorba Le Gros on his 2nd attempt for his first route at the 7b grade. Lisa falls right from the end of Polipitis (7a+), plans to come back later in the trip to finish it off.

Day 8:

More climbing at Poets for most people, Alistair, Cheehan, Jonny & Lizzie head to the impressive cave of Spartacus where amazing routes and shade until 6pm are found. Cheehan starts work on Daniboy which at the grade of 8a is harder than any IC student in recent memory has climbed. Alistair picks the classic line of Spartacus, both routes require painfully jamming your knee in to get a hands-off rest, plans are made for one of Babis' hand-towels to become a crucial knee-pad. Jonny tries Magnetus, a very short and powerful route at the 7c grade. Lizzie starts attempting climbs at the 6c grade. All four are enthusiastic to return another day to complete their projects. Chris & Lisa head back to Polipitis, get close but again not quite close enough.



Figure 6 - Alistair hanging from the crucial knee-bar on Spartacus (7b+)

Day 9:

Everyone takes a rest day, Fresher sets off determined to hire a boat. Turns out nobody on Kalymnos is stupid enough to hire Fresher a boat. Much larking around in the swimming pool happens and not a lot else.

Day 10:

Psyched after successfully imitating turbo Germans; Fresher and Kip embarked on their second multipitch climb of the tour. This time on the small island of Telendos (or Telly'd as it became known) with the objective of climbing a 6b+ overhanging "offwidth" (off width cracks are named as such because they don't easily fit human body parts and so lead to a particularly physical form of climbing).



Figure 7 - Telendos as seen from Kalymnos

The day started at noon with catching the ferry to Telendos due to the climb being north-easterly facing. Upon leaving the town on Telendos a dog started to follow us. This dog obviously used to climbers going to the closer crags giving it food proceeded to follow us over very broken terrain for over an hour and a half to our climb despite our best efforts to turn it back.

Kip lead the first 6a+ pitch of crimpy Telendos limestone which had a nice unprotected bushy muddy sloping ledge at the top. Fresher, been the expert in all things disgusting then attempted the 6b+ "offwidth" pitch which turned out to be more of a fist/hand jamming crack. The inside of the crack

was made of fossilised shells that hurt a lot. After about 4hrs of pain the “offwidth” pitch was dispatched. The delay was primarily due to it been impossible to second with a backpack and having to prussic up a fixed line instead.



Figure 8 - The notorious offwidth

Resting at the top of the 2nd pitch the decision was made to abseil off the climb due to the encroaching darkness and the “meat” of the climb having been dispatched. In the twilight at the bottom we found the dog now very dehydrated and so we shared some of our water with it.

What followed was 3hrs of stumbling through the dark trying to find our way back to the town but always finding ourselves above a cliff line with an increasingly distressed dog while getting very dehydrated. Eventually unable to find a way down from the cliff line we abseiled off a sturdy bush to a low angled scree slope which lead to the shore line path to town. Unfortunately the attempts to save the dog by making a sling harness for it such that we could take it on the abseil were unsuccessful (kept wriggling out). So we feared as the dog was scrabbling around in a dangerous position (top of a loose cliff) it would die. However just as we had given the dog up as lost it came bounding down the slope towards us, obviously it knew the decent and hadn't told us. We brought the dog back to its owner and endeavoured to explain just how lucky a dog it was.

While this madness went down Johan managed 11 routes in a day on Castalia (good when each day only has 6hrs of climbing time).

Back in the realm of the sane, Alistair successfully redpointed Spartacus for his first 7b+ route, the hand-towel taped to the knee making all the difference. Cheehan fell from near the end of Daniboy and Jonny was shot down by Magnetus but managed to climb a neighbouring 7b. Chris and Lisa both managed to redpoint Polipitis for their first 7a+ routes.

Day 12:

There were sufficient funds for all of us to have all you can eat BBQ, as a vegetarian Kip decided to spend his money on a BIG pizza instead. Certain members hit the all you can drink wine pretty hard and after a moonlit trip to the beach, are unable to find their own beds so instead settle for sharing.

Day 13:

Cheehan successfully redpointed Daniboy (8a), Johnny and Johan followed suit with Magnetus (7c) and a 7b getting redpointed respectively. All very good achievements!

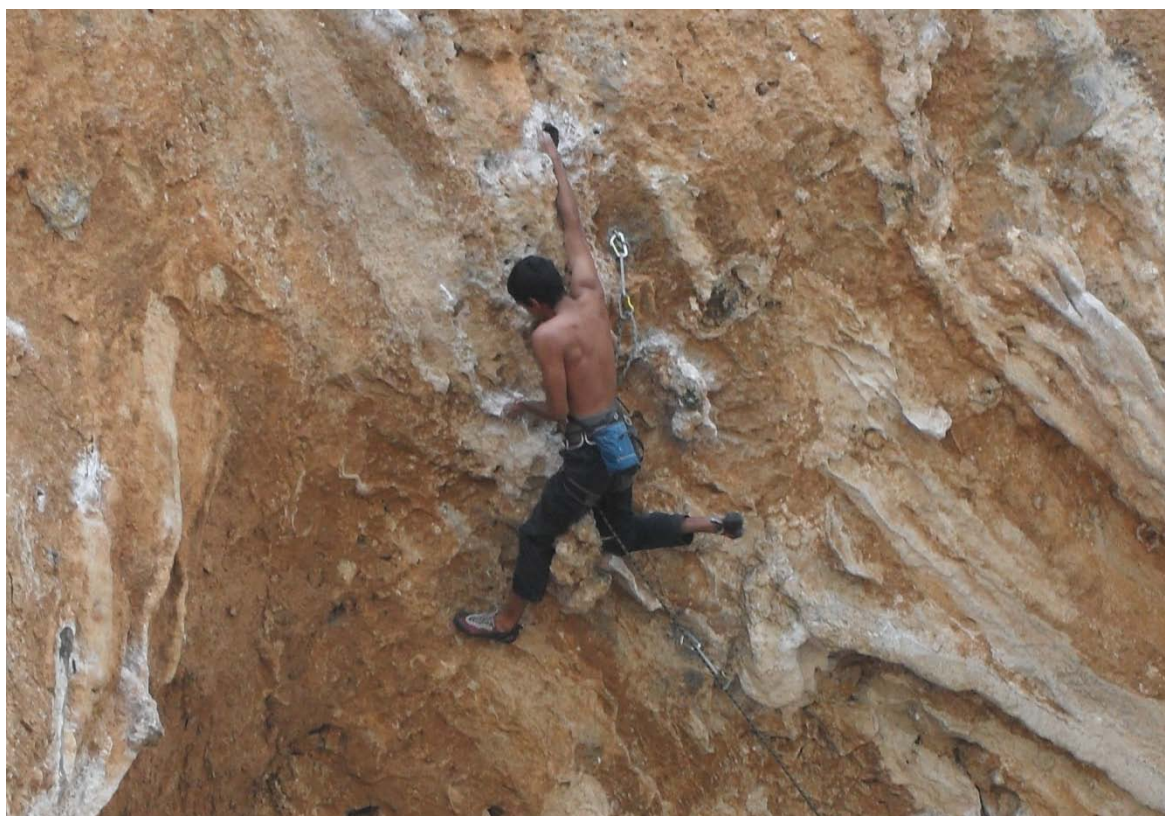


Figure 9 - Cheehan going for it on Daniboy (8a)

Day 14:

All of us decided to have a rest day and went to Telendos where we hired sea kayaks and went to a small uninhabited island with a church on (about 2km away). We then had a tasty cheap lunch at a restaurant on Telendos. For afternoon entertainment most of us swam the 1km from Telendos to Kalymnos, for many of us our first open water swim. Fresher paddled the dinghy from the swimming pool at Babis Bar using a slippery when wet sign, a true act of heroism that required reinflation at the half-way mark. Celebratory ice-cream and beer were consumed.

Day 15 (September 29th):

Return to London via two buses, a ferry and Easyjet. Minor drama with luggage not showing up in time for Easybus, however Easybus was late so all is well. London is grey, rainy and miserable and generally inferior to Kalymnos in every respect. Still, Kalymnos has left a big impression upon all of us and we cannot wait to return in the future.



Figure 10 - Slippery when wet, the dinghy on its maiden voyage from Telendos - Kalymnos



Figure 11 - The ICMC summer tour 2010 minus Cheehan (who travelled separately) on the boat back to Kos.

Full List of Attendees:

Alistair Brash
Ruth Lawson
James Lawson
Lisa Alhadeff
Johan Gausden
Dakshina Scott
Jonathan Hazell
Matt Pusey
Ed Stott
Lizzie Wilkins
Sarah Woodrow
Chris Hunt
Cheehan Weeraratne
Elliot Carrington
Jonathan Bull

All of the above are full-time IC students and members of ICMC. The tour budget projected 15 attendees with 14 being IC students, however the alumni member dropped out, the result was that 15 IC students attended the tour.

Financial Breakdown:

The CSB awarded this tour £463.00 of subsidy which will be split equally between all attendees to cover travel expenditure when received. The tour broke even. There was not a fixed ticket price as not everyone came for the duration of the tour, however individual prices were calculated based on the cost of food + accommodation for the number of nights the attendees were present. The cost of the tour for a single attendee for the full two weeks once subsidy is received was £400.

Difficulties / Objectives:

The tour originally intended to run to Sardinia, however owing to a lack of eligible hire car drivers, the destination was changed to Kalymnos as it was possible to walk to the climbing from our accommodation. Changing the destination actually presented very few problems and the new destination was able to fulfil all of the tour objectives. The cost of the flights increased however this was offset by the money saved from not needing to hire cars. This also meant that our subsidy allocation was still valid, the change in destination was cleared with the DPCS well before departure.

Many new skills were learnt from simul-climbing to new tie-in knots and even just better mental & physical tactics for attempting a hard route. Not a single member came away from the trip without increasing the level at which they climbed. Several members lead climbed outdoors for the first time, this is a major milestone in anyone's personal climbing development. The well-protected and enjoyable routes played a major role in this

Written by James Lawson (Webmaster) & Alistair Brash (President)

Imperial College String Ensemble

Scotland 2010 - Tour Report

Summary of activities

On the morning Monday 28th June 2010, members of Imperial College String Ensemble departed from Imperial College Union for the county of Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland via minibus, plane and train. Our first few days were spent at a self catering lodge in the Galloway Activity Centre on Loch Ken, near Castle Douglas. A full day's rehearsal of music both new and old (Mozart's *Adagio & Fugue*, Bach's *Violin Concerto in A minor* providing first time concerto opportunities for 3 ICSE members, Parry's *English Suite*, Purcell's *Chacony in G minor* and the rarely performed viola concerto *Ulysses Awakes* by John Woolrich) culminated in our first free concert performed on Tuesday evening to a packed out Parton Church. Given the rarity of classical performances in the region, the reception and acclaim given to us far exceeded our expectation!



Wednesday 30th June was designated as a "day off", for the orchestra to enjoy the local area with activities ranging from outdoor laserquest, boating and swimming in the loch. Later that day we left via minibus and train for the bright lights of Edinburgh, squeezing in another rehearsal shortly after arriving in the early evening.

Thursday 1st July commenced with a dedicated promotional effort of flyering locals and tourists in the rain, followed by a brief rehearsal and a well received lunchtime concert given in the prestigious St Giles Cathedral in the heart of Edinburgh. As a reward for the hard work put in by all members over the course of the tour, a subsidized group dinner was provided on the last night after the concert. Friday's activities consisted of travelling back via minibus and plane, arriving in London late on Friday evening.

Budget summary

Our pre-tour budget accounted for almost all expenditure and VAT (including minibus hire, instructor's fees, publicity, fuel costs, SYHA membership and accommodation, conductor's travel arrangements, all train journeys on tour, accommodation at Loch Ken, food, flights, a subsidized

tour dinner, the cost of booking St Giles Cathedral and £100 contingency), with estimates calculated for items such as fuel expenditure, food and conductor's travel arrangements. The standard cost of tour was set to £160 for most members, with extra costs imposed for late payment or for special arrangements (e.g. flying back on Friday). The pre-tour budget calculated a net income of £2345 in member payments plus £322 in ICU grant, resulting in a net income of £2667. The predicted net expenditure was £2406.03, resulting in a net profit of £260.97.

Analysis of expenditure and the post tour budget revealed the following inaccuracies:

- **Publicity:** Incorrect assumption that this would be VAT deductible, plus an overspend of £10.54. (Total loss of approximately £15).
- **Minibus fuel:** Conservative estimate of minibus MPG and mileage: £68 overspend.
- **SHYA membership:** Incorrect assumption that this was VAT deductible.
- **Conductor's travel arrangements:** these were altered by the conductor without prior knowledge, resulting in an overspend of £68.
- **Galloway Activity Centre:** Inaccurate budgeting calculation only accounted for one night's stay and incorrect assumption that this was VAT deductible, £180 overspend.
- **Edinburgh accommodation:** Incorrect assumption that this was VAT deductible: £110 overspend.
- **Food:** Underspent food budget by £22.
- **Subsidized group dinner:** Underspent by £41.
- **Train travel to Edinburgh:** Had to send one extra person via train due to the minibus being full, resulting in an overspend of £13.
- **Contingency:** This was spent on food for a group stranded travellers, parking in Edinburgh, and a fine relating to a broken minibus wing mirror.

The total extra expenditure is approximately £300 (taking contingency into account), resulting in a final net loss of about £50.

Given that this is the most ambitious tour ICSE has attempted to date, we hope to take these lessons into account when budgeting for future tours and setting the tour cost to members. Extra care should be taken when evaluating what is VAT deductible, travel estimates should be more generous and the conductor's travel itinerary and costs should be agreed and paid for in advance and not claimed back after the event.

Conclusion

This tour was very successful in its aims and objectives. Opportunities were given to ensemble members to perform solo concerto items that they wouldn't usually perform in a concert in London; to all members to rehearse in a tight-knit socially welcoming yet challenging environment; to perform to members of the public that we wouldn't be able to perform to usually (and who don't often get the chance to hear classical music); and to represent Imperial College and Imperial College Union in a very positive manner. If the budgeting inaccuracies had been highlighted more clearly during the tour, a break even could easily have been achieved by simply reducing the subsidy on the final group meal. For this reason, it is recommended in future to reduce any additional or unplanned spending throughout the week to an absolute minimum.

IC tennis Valencia tour

6 people 23rd-30th June 2010

Financial Breakdown

Cost per person

Flights	£105
Baggage	£10
Car hire	£45
Public transport inc. Transport to airport	£30
Drink	£20
Food	£80
Accommodation	£80
Other	£50
<u>Total</u>	£420

June 23rd

- Arrive in Valencia airport
- Sort out car hire and find accommodation
- San Juan Beach party

June 24th

- Training at club on clay in morning
- Lunch, siesta and swim at club
- Training at club in evening

June 25th

- Training at club morning
- Beach and relaxation
- Sight seeing

June 26th

- Match against local club 1st team. ('Sporting club de tenis') Narrowly lost.
- Socialise with opposition
- Enjoyed Valencia night life

June 27th

- Rest day
- Watched grand prix
- Relaxation on beach

June 28th

- Match against U18 regional players at 'club espanol de tenis'. Good victory.
- Fitness training afternoon

June 29th

- Training with local players working on clay court tactics. Free coaching from club coaches

June 30th

- Sight seeing
- Farewell match with president of club (singles and doubles against worlds over 55s no. 1)

1st July

- Return to England

We achieved the main purpose of the tour – to train on clay, a surface we're unfamiliar with. We also had very tough matches playing matches against opponents who play with a very different style to those we encounter in England. I believe the tour also has set us up to do very well in our league this year.

Perhaps most importantly we have established a rapport with a tennis club in Valencia which we hope to maintain over future years. Overall the tour met its objectives.

The only mishap was one of our players suffered from a wrist injury and could not play for the majority of the tour. Fortunately we were able to still compete in all our matches.

Imperial College Union

Beit Quadrangle
Prince Consort Road
London
SW7 2BB

Tel: 020 7594 8060
Fax: 020 7594 8065
Email: union@imperial.ac.uk
Twitter: [@icunion](https://twitter.com/icunion)
imperialcollegeunion.org

