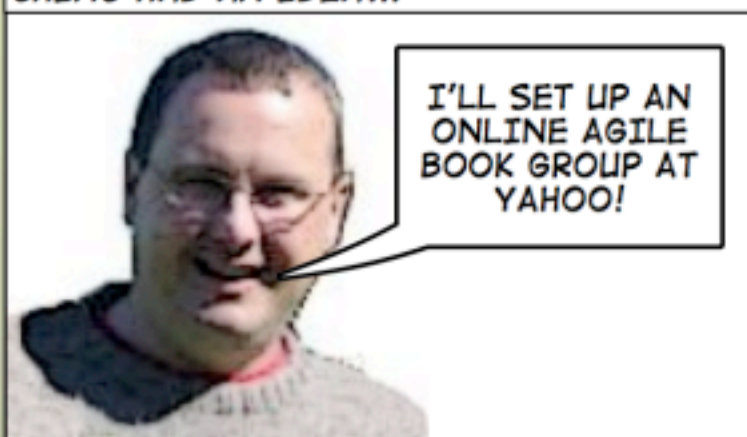


Collaborative Learning with an Agile Book Group

AN XPDAY COMIC
BY CHRIS RIMMER
NOVEMBER 2006

BACK IN THE SUMMER OF 2005, CLARKE CHING HAD AN IDEA...



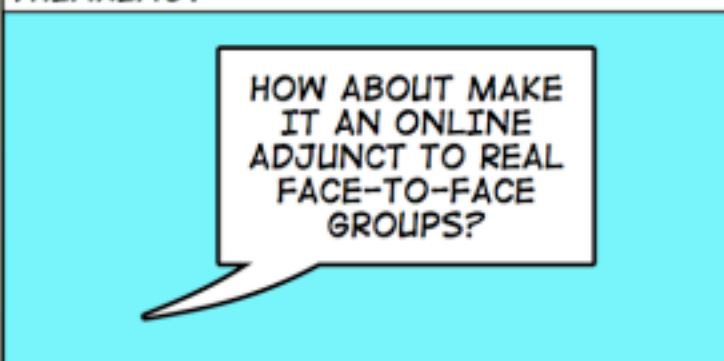
BUT THE GROUP NEVER REALLY TOOK OFF...



EVENTUALLY, PEOPLE SUGGESTED WAYS TO GET IT OFF THE GROUND AGAIN...



BUT IT WAS DEBORAH HARTMANN'S SUGGESTION THAT REALLY GOT ME THINKING.



AND SO...

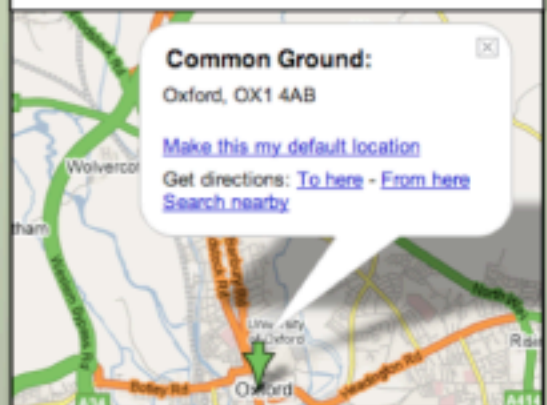
THE OXTREMISTS WERE BORN!

NOT QUITE OXFORD'S ANSWER TO THE X-MEN, BUT AT THE VERY LEAST A WAY FOR ME TO GET THROUGH THAT VERY LONG 'TO-READ' LIST.

I'D SEEN REFERENCES TO JOSHUA KERIEVSKY'S PATTERNS FOR STUDY GROUPS. SO I READ THOSE TO GET ME STARTED.



HE SUGGESTS HOLDING THE GROUP'S MEETINGS ON 'COMMON GROUND'...



...EASY TO GET TO, BUT NOT TOO CLOSE TO THE OFFICE OR TO HOME.

ANOTHER PATTERN IS THAT OF 'PUBLIC LIVING ROOM'...



... SOMEWHERE WHERE PEOPLE WILL FEEL COMFORTABLE MEETING UP.

SO I CHOSE A QUIET PUB IN THE CENTRE OF OXFORD AS A MEETING PLACE.



I CREATED A MAILING LIST AND A GROUP BLOG TO ORGANISE AND DOCUMENT OUR DISCUSSIONS.



THIS WAS AS DESCRIBED IN THE 'VIRTUAL SPACE' PATTERN...



...WE EVEN GOT SOMEONE FROM INDIA FOLLOWING ALONG AT HOME!

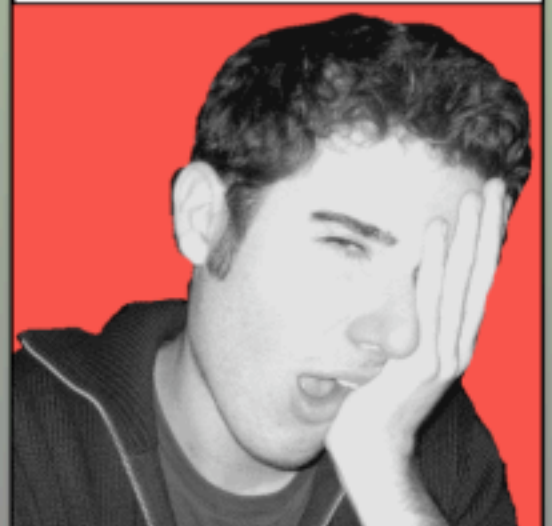
SO FAR, WE HAVEN'T TRIED THE IDEA IN THE 'DISTRIBUTED DIARY' PATTERN OF HAVING EVERYONE WRITE DOWN A FEW SENTENCES THAT THEY THINK ARE IMPORTANT. WE'VE HAD A SINGLE MINUTE TAKER.



ONE PLACE WHERE WE'VE NOT FOLLOWED THE ADVICE IN THE STUDY GROUP PATTERNS WAS TO HAVE MEETINGS MONTHLY, RATHER THAN THE RECOMMENDED FORTNIGHTLY.



I WAS WORRIED THIS WOULD BE TOO MUCH COMMITMENT FOR PEOPLE.



SO DEAR READER, THE GROUP HAS BEEN RUNNING OVER 6 MONTHS AND IS GOING QUITE WELL. BUT I WANT TO ENSURE IT HAS 'ENDURING ENERGY', SO I'M LOOKING FOR YOUR IDEAS. IF YOU'VE RUN A SIMILAR GROUP IN THE PAST, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS?

Free Beer.
wiki

Dancing girls

WE ARE GETTING ABOUT 6 PARTICIPANTS TO EACH MEETING, MOST OF WHOM HAVE READ THE BOOK WE ARE DISCUSSING. WOULD BIGGER BE BETTER?

SHOULD BE HAVING MORE REGULAR MEETINGS?

No - monthly is perfect.
I agree

ANY INNOVATIVE IDEAS WE SHOULD TRY?

DO YOU LIVE NEAR OXFORD AND FANCY COMING ALONG?

Yes

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR GROUP:
WWW.OXTREMISTS.CO.UK

FOR JOSHUA KERIEVSKY'S STUDY GROUP PATTERNS:
WWW.INDUSTRIALLOGIC.COM/PAPERS/KH.HTML

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