

COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS

A constituent member of the British Caving Association



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 6th May 2006

1. ATTENDANCE (11, 9 eligible to vote)

Alan Gray (CSCC Chairman, ACG), Steve King (CSCC Secretary, SBSS/SMCC Obs), Chris Binding (CSCC C&A Officer, Cheddar CC), Alan Dempster (Avon Scouts), Phil Hendy (Wessex CC Obs), Alan Butcher (SMCC), Les Williams (CSCC Equipment Officer, Wessex CC Obs), Tim Francis (MCG), Dave Cooke (Wessex CC), Rob Norcross (Moles CC), Graham Price (Cerberus SS).

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (5)

Chris Whale (CSCC Treasurer, SBSS), Andrew Atkinson (CSCC Bolting Coordinator, UBSS), Andy Sparrow (CSCC Training Officer, Cheddar CC), Graham Mullan (UBSS), Linda Wilson (UBSS).

3. RATIFICATION OF MEMBER CLUBS

The Secretary explained that as of 31st March 2006 two Clubs that had been Members in 2005 (Avon Scouts Caving Section & Wessex Cave Club) had not renewed their membership, though Avon Scouts had subsequently rejoined ahead of the Meeting. At this point DC explained that the WCC had decided to use their BCA Membership to affiliate to the DCA and handed over a cheque to the Secretary as payment for Secondary Membership of the CSCC. This was duly accepted.

There were no other applications for membership.

The Secretary said that with these late additions, membership of the CSCC stood at 31. The list of Member Clubs recognised by the CSCC as of the date of the Meeting is reproduced in Appendix 1. If your Club is not listed and you think it should be, please contact the Secretary.

With representatives of 9 Clubs present the AGM was pronounced as quorate.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Under Item 9.1, it was requested that "ex-member of the WCC" be changed to "Member of the WCC".

The Minutes were otherwise agreed to be a true and accurate record. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

5. ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Item 9.1 – CB to investigate funding for the stock fence around Cuckoo Cleaves.

Taken under Item 10.

Item 9.7 – Swildon's Hole Blue Pencil chain to be replaced as soon as possible.

Taken under Item 10.

Item 9.13 – CB to send DC some appropriate wording about Cow Hole & Ubley Hill Pot.

Taken under Item 10.

Item 9.15 – CB to liaise with GP & BP on the supply of additional padlocks.

Taken under Item 10.

Item 11 – SK to write to the BCA Chairman on the subject of the Equipment Committee.

See below.

Item 12.1 – CB & LW to pass Les Sykes' contact details to AA.

Done.

Item 12.2 – SK to write to the BCA Chairman on the subject of Bolting Certificates.

See below.

Item 13 – CW to draft a Caver Questionnaire.

Taken under Item 16.

SK confirmed that he had indeed written to the BCA Chairman about the two issues above, and that both were discussed at the BCA AGM. In respect of the Action arising from Item 11, SK said that he had also taken the opportunity to talk to the BCA Equipment Officer in person and was optimistic that this portfolio would shortly be making much more of an impact (and in fact the BCA Equipment Officer revealed some of the work that he had been doing in recent months). In respect of the Action arising from Item 13, SK said that the CSCC's concerns had met with some confusion, as none of the other Regions had 'certificates' (or in some cases saw the need for them). One comment made was that "Les [Sykes] has all the names in his book".

The Meeting confirmed its earlier view that this really wasn't very satisfactory. If there were not to be any certificates than there should at least be an open and easy accessible list of trained bolters, copies perhaps residing with the Regional Secretaries, or placed on the BCA Website. The Meeting instructed the Secretary to pursue this matter further with the BCA.

ACTION: SK to raise the issue of access to the list of trained bolters with the relevant BCA personnel.

6. OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

CB said that the Action on him under Item 9.13 was also now complete.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

"I have now been Chairman of the CSCC for three years and am willing to take on this post for the next year. A brief summary of the events for the last year –

P-Bolting – At the last AGM it was reported that situation with respect to training had now been overcome and all the existing bolts had been inspected. However due to the lack of resin the Mendip bolters had not been re-certified.

Loxton Cavern is now open to cavers on a leadership basis.

Finally I would like to thank all the CSCC Officers for their efforts over the past year.”

8. HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

“I do not have much to add to what the Chairman has said. We had some successes this year (in the form of the sale of Cuckoo Cleaves to a caver and the start of the Loxton Cavern leadership scheme), and some setbacks (the continued closure of Brownes Folly, continuing problems in Surrey, possible pollution at Manor Farm, and a national shortage of bolting resin). Some of this resulted in intense bursts of e-traffic amongst your Officers, but on the whole what I had to do this year was much as I expected.

In the continuing absence of a Representative to the BCA from this Region I attended the BCA Council Meetings in October and March, the latter coinciding with the BCA AGM. I am heartened by what I perceive as a slow, but nonetheless steady, transition by the BCA to an organisation that will truly benefit cavers. But it is desperately in need of young blood with energy and ideas. It remains to be seen what impact the withdrawal of the UK Sport grant aid will have in the next couple of years.

I am happy to continue as your Secretary for another year if that is the wish of the Membership, but I give notice that for business reasons I will probably then want to take a break. I would be happy to discuss what the post entails with anyone that might like to take over.”

8.1 - Publications received

None.

8.2 - Correspondence

The Secretary asked everyone to note that Nigel Taylor had taken over from Vince Simmonds as the BEC Representative to the CSCC. Nigel can be contacted at demrock@btconnect.com or c/o The Belfry. Please do not bother Vince.

8.3 – CSCC Membership Status

As stated earlier the Meeting noted that there were presently 31 Member Clubs of the CSCC. This represented a small, but nonetheless welcome, increase on the previous year. The Secretary noted that Hewlett Packard CC had re-joined after a break of a couple of years. He suggested that this may have been due to a dialogue that DC had initiated with them.

The Secretary said that it had been brought to his attention that an advert in *Descent* for the SLUGS (Society of Lancaster University Graduate Students) claimed that they were affiliated to the CSCC. He said that this was not the case (they were not even members of the BCA). The Secretary said that he had written to the contact email in the advert but was still waiting for a reply. He said that if none was forthcoming in the near future he would ask Chris Howes to amend the advert.

ACTION: SK to ask Chris Howes to amend the SLUGS advert in *Descent*.

8.4 – Obligations on BCA Member Clubs

The BCA had noted correspondence at its AGM which suggested that some Clubs were not adequately fulfilling their obligations to their Members in respect of keeping them informed about what the BCA was doing, important communiqués, etc. **CSCC Member Clubs are reminded that they are the only route of contact the BCA has with its Club Individual Members (CIM's)**; a declaration to this effect is actually part of the BCA membership form. A quick survey of those Clubs represented at the Meeting revealed wildly different degrees of information dissemination.

The BCA AGM had also noted that a number of Clubs were describing their annual subscriptions as comprising ‘the Club sub’ and ‘a contribution for BCA Public Liability insurance’. **CSCC Member Clubs are further reminded that the BCA does not sell PL insurance; this is a *benefit* of BCA Membership. Clubs must make this distinction absolutely clear to their Members.**

8.5 – Regional Council Discussion Forums

On behalf of the BCA, LW and DC have set up Regional Council Discussion Forums on the BCA Website. Cavers are encouraged to use them to provide feedback to the BCA and the Regional Councils.

<http://british-caving.org.uk/phpbb2/index.php>

8.6 – BCA Rope Testing Statistics for 2005

During 2005 the BCA Rope Test Officer tested 32 rope samples for 12 individuals or Clubs. Unlike in the past, the testing regime now involves two drops at Fall Factor 1, followed by a 0.1 increase in Fall Factor for each of drops 3, 4 and 5. This is more severe than the British Standard requires but is believed to more accurately reflect likely service by cavers. The samples ranged in age from 1 to 15 years (with 4 of unknown age). All of the new (1 year old) samples survived all 5 drops, but of the remainder, *one-third* only survived the first two FF 1 drops (these encompassing samples of 4, 5, 9, 12, 13 and 15 years of age). The data are not conclusive – a couple of 10 year old samples performed very well – but Clubs would do well to factor these statistics into their equipment stewardship programmes. {With thanks to Bob Mehew for additional details. Also see *Descent* (175), December 2003 – SK}.

9. HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer was not present but had prepared a written report. This may be found in Attachment 1.

AB remarked that the first time he had presented the cheque for reimbursement of the Gibbet's Brow capping (see previous Minutes) it had bounced!

{Note added in proof: The Treasurer says that the failed presentation incurred a bank charge of £35. However this was quietly reimbursed to the CSCC Current Account a couple of days later. Consequently the Treasurer suspects that the Bank made a mistake and then tried to cover its tracks! – SK}

10. CONSERVATION & ACCESS OFFICER'S REPORT

The C&A Officer presented a comprehensive verbal report which is abstracted below:

“Issues dealt with in the past year included: the Cuckoo Cleaves sale, the proposals to gate Box Mine, the Waterwheel Swallet lid, attempts to gain access to West Twin Brook Adit, poor air, the locks at Nettle Pot and Ubley Warren Pot, liaison with the WCMS on problems at the Surrey Mines, the inauguration of a leadership system for Loxton Cavern (the “Found Cave of Loxton”), funding for the capping of Gibbet’s Brow Cave, bat groups, bats, the need to replace the Blue Pencil chain, access to Fairy Cave Quarry (cavers should note that due to vandalism the combination lock to the Car Park has been replaced with a CSCC Padlock; so a key is now required even if the cave being visited does not require one!), reports of pollution at Manor Farm Swallet, the SSSI Audit for English Nature, a new dig in Longwood Valley, human excrement in Goatchurch Cavern, access to Cow Hole & Ubley Hill Pot, new surveying equipment, replacement padlocks, and the Burrington Coombe rescue sign!”

Issues that had arisen since the February Meeting were:

10.1 - Merstham Mines

Peter Burgess, the WCMS Surrey Mines Agent, had been in touch to say that they had received an email from the landowner setting out 20 questions about the past involvement of the WCMS with Merstham Mines and mostly concentrating on matters of permission. The WCMS have responded at length and now await a reply.

10.2 - C&A Funding

A funding application requesting £2,032 has been sent to BCA in respect of:

- a) further work at Gibbet’s Brow (including repayment of the capping expenses already paid by the CSCC);
- b) remedial work on the entrance to Loxton Cavern (installing ladder, gate, walling);
- c) the capping of Star Mine (a big project – see later);
- d) a new concrete ring, lid and fencing at Cuckoo Cleaves.

A reply is awaited.

10.3 – Singing River Mine

Following a third-party report that the ginging at Singing River Mine was in danger of imminent collapse, a site inspection revealed 8-10 loose rocks which have been stabilised with new cement pointing.

10.4 – Gibbet’s Brow

It has transpired that the Gibbet’s Brow dig is in an SSSI. The landowner apparently did not know, neither it seems, did English Nature until they checked their records closely! English Nature now needs to provide retrospective consent to the landowner for the dig. This is a matter for the landowner, the SMCC diggers and EN rather than the CSCC. AB will make contact with Kate Jeffreys, the EN representative.

(The suspicion is that rather than just scheduling the area over Lamb Leer Cavern against “Works Likely to Damage”, a much bigger area was scheduled for no particularly good reason).

10.5 – Box Mine

The gating is now due to go ahead in June/July 2006. CB said that he had now seen a design for the gates. Katie Lloyd (EN Wiltshire) is writing a short piece about Box for *Descent*.

10.6 – Loxton Cavern

The concreting to stabilise the entrance at Loxton Cavern has been done. Further work on installing a fixed ladder depends upon funds being made available (see 10.2).

10.7 – West Twin Brook Adit

Bristol Water has finally agreed to a combination lock being installed. Contact the C&A Officer or the UBSS for the code.

10.8 – East Twin Swallet

The MHAONB Warden’s Office have reported on more than one occasion that the East Twin stream has been left flowing to the road in recent months. This risks undermining the road foundations and will not be tolerated. **Cavers are asked to take care not to damage the bund near the cave entrance and to clear blockages at the sink hole so that water can flow into the cave.**

10.9 – Goatchurch Cavern

The floor had partially washed out at the Midgets Steps. The area has been stabilised and cleared of loose stones.

10.10 – Star Mine

CB had received a report that the east wall was bulging and perhaps on the verge of collapse. On inspection it became clear that it was not bulging – the rocks at the top were just set further back – but a number were loose and the top of the shaft was evidently the worse for the weather. It was understood that the landowner was likely to permanently close the site if he felt it was in a dangerous condition. The shaft needs capping. This would also help protect any re-pointing and cementing.

The Meeting agreed that remedial work here should be a priority. In addition to its industrial archaeological interest, Star Shaft is also Mendip's only 30m free-hanging entrance pitch. A horizon of bedrock at about -10m could also be populated with P-bolts at a later date to provide a SRT venue.

CB said that he had already secured £250 funding from the MHAONB service towards the capping, but he estimated the total costs at around £1000.

SK enquired if the UKCCEF could be used to make up the balance. GP said that it would most probably make a loan, but it was not in the habit of making grants. In any event there was some doubt as to whether a mine shaft would qualify for funding. It seemed therefore that the CSCC would have to fund the project with the intention of recovering all, or part, of its costs from the BCA.

There was some discussion of the logistics of the project and the amount of work involved. It was suggested that a "Mendip Day" be organised to galvanise support, with perhaps a barrel and BBQ for the willing volunteers.

{Notes added in proof: CB has met with the landowners and secured their agreement for the work. CB has obtained a quote for the supply and delivery to the roadside of a 200mm thick reinforced concrete "cap" with an aperture for entry in two halves (each of 2 tons) of £1034 including VAT. Specialist lifting gear will be required to transport the slabs to the shaft, towards which the MHAONB service have offered an additional £200. These costs do not include the cost of a manhole lid, or cement, sand, etc. The Treasurer gave his agreement to the CSCC costs in an email to CB, AG & SK on May 8th. The re-pointing will need to be done before the cap can be installed. CB already has two volunteers to assist with this. Some work was conducted on May 12th. CB is meeting the concrete company the week beginning May 15th to place the order for the cap.}

ACTION: CB to coordinate the preparatory work and details of the capping of Star Mine.

ACTION: CB to advise the date of the capping of Star Mine.

10.12 – Local Liaison

Litter picking at Burrington. Attended the Outdoor Pursuits Liaison Group Meeting on April 25th on behalf of CSCC.

11. TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Training Officer was not present and had not sent a report.

SK said that there had been a Meeting of the BCA Training Committee on 8th April and that he knew that the Training Officer had been unable to attend. There was no other CSCC representation. SK said that he was not aware that the Minutes of that Meeting had been issued yet.

DC added that at the BCA AGM the BCA Training Officer had 'named-and-shamed' those Regions that were regularly unrepresented at BCA Training Committee Meetings. The CSCC was second worst on the list.

It was noted that AS had previously indicated that he would be standing down as the CSCC Training Officer at the AGM.

12. EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

The Equipment Officer said that he had nothing to add to what the Secretary had already said.

13. BOLTING COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The Bolting Coordinator was not present but had sent a report to the Secretary:

"There were some problems getting hold of resin for the first 3/4 of the year. We now have plenty and plan to retain the Bolters in Goughs Cave. Alison Moody has agreed to do her retraining on the Blue Pencil bolt, we just need a time when we can both do it. The aim is them to move onto Thrupe Lane.

A tester has been bought [for us by the BCA], I have it stored in my loft.

I have tested the loose bolt on the right hand side of the main hang in Rhino Rift. It successfully passed the test, so although it is loose it is safe to use. Although not necessary for the insurance, I will endeavour to test it once a year.

The status of all bolts will be recorded on the web page, diagrams are still missing. If you [cavers] would like to help, please draw a rigging diagram of any pitch that is P-hangered [in the CSCC Region], please include rope lengths. As I receive them I will load them up on the web to avoid duplication.

I am willing to continue if that is the desire of the Meeting."

SK said that he had asked the Bolting Coordinator about timescales. AA had replied:

"I have plenty of time, as you know it is just about getting people together at the same time. All I will say is as quick as possible, in this order. Goughs and Blue Pencil (to get the team trained again so we can at least keep all bolts in check), then Thrupe, for which I suspect we will need some help [and for which offers of assistance have already been received].

Thurpe is urgent as some Atlas bolts have been broken for some time. We have all the hangers we now need."

SK said that a report had been received from the WCC that the spits for the Y-hang beyond the Marble Streamway in Thrupe Lane were useless.

SK also said that Mick Norton (ACG/BDCC/MCG) had complained that the details of what P-bolts were already placed in Thrupe Lane were missing from the CSCC Website. SK said that he had in fact already brought this to the attention of AA but that the reminder was timely.

ACTION: AA & DC to ensure that the missing CSCC P-bolt details are put on the Website as soon as possible.

LW promised to get the new chain for Blue Pencil to Alison Moody as soon as possible.

14. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

AB proposed that all those officers that were willing to serve another year should be re-elected *en masse*. This was agreed and carried without dissent. This left the positions of Training Officer and BCA Representative vacant.

SK said that in the absence of a BCA Representative during the last year he had attended two of the four BCA Council Meetings in order that the CSCC was formally represented, and added that he was prepared to continue as the *Acting* BCA Representative for the coming year if no one else was willing *provided* that it was understood that he would not undertake to attend all BCA Council Meetings; attendance would be at his discretion. This was accepted.

CB argued that it was not crucial that the CSCC filled the position of Training Officer since AS had actually received very few requests for training from Member Clubs. However LW countered that what the post of Training Officer really needed was a non-professional caver who was willing to organise training-oriented events, rather than actually doing the training themselves. CB noted that AB had much of the necessary experience for such a role and proposed AB. LW seconded the proposal. AB capitulated!

DC asked if the Council wished to formally recognise the role of Webmaster. The Meeting agreed to do so.

The officers of the CSCC for 2006/7 are therefore:

Chairman	- Alan Gray (ACG)
Secretary	- Steve King (SBSS/SMCC)
Treasurer	- Chris Whale (SBSS)
C & A	- Chris Binding (ChCC)
Training	- Alan Butcher (SMCC)
Equipment	- Les Williams (WCC)
<i>Acting</i> BCA Rep	- Steve King
Bolting	- Andrew Atkinson (UBSS)
Webmaster	- Dave Cooke (WCC)

15. CSCC PADLOCKS

CB explained that the CSCC only had one unused padlock left and *no keys*! There were CSCC padlocks on 16 sites. He went on to say that he had done some investigation and two alternatives presented themselves. The CSCC could:

- continue to get the existing CSCC padlock *using the same key* at £120/dozen (ie, £480 for 48), or;
- get the existing type of padlock *but with a different key* at £409 for 50 (minimum order size).

Option (b) would involve retro-fitting all CSCC sites and re-issuing keys to those Clubs *currently* entitled to hold them. But this would enhance the security of sites which the CSCC and its Members were paying to maintain and insure. Furthermore, replacement locks would no longer have to be imported from outside the UK, and keys could be cut from a digital pattern rather than by cloning an existing key.

In the discussion that followed it emerged that there were rather more keys in circulation than the Council might have wished, and that some problems with locks were almost certainly due to poorly cloned keys. The pro's and con's of removing tumblers (less mechanical components to seize up, versus more space for mud and grit) were also debated, as were the problems of using WD40-type lubricants (the propellant actually dissolves existing oils/greases and washes them out of the mechanism) compared to '3-in-1' machine oil.

The Treasurer had confirmed by email that there was money available to make the proposed change.

The two options were put to a vote. There was one vote to maintain the *status quo*, one abstention, and 7 votes in favour of option (b).

It was acknowledged that the changeover of locks would have to be handled carefully. CB said that he was confident that all sites could be changed in a day. SK suggested that sometime in the summer holiday period when many cavers would be away from Mendip might be best.

ACTION: SK & CB to advertise the intention and (when decided) the date of the CSCC lock change.

16. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE CSCC

SK said that whilst it was not his desire to stifle genuine debate, it was his belief – part founded in the collective inaction since the last Meeting of many that were present – that there was no particular will to adopt the DC's proposal to introduce individual membership of the CSCC in the immediate future. Indeed the Secretary had received written correspondence from one local caver who strongly objected to the idea. Consequently, and rather than have the issue drag on unresolved, SK said that he wished to propose the motion that he had put in the Agenda, that:

“Whilst recognising the good intentions of those promoting Individual Membership of the CSCC, this Meeting considers that at the present time the benefits of this proposal are not sufficiently overwhelming as to warrant its adoption. Accordingly this Meeting moves that further discussion of the proposal be postponed until such time in the future as three Club Representatives from the ranks of the CSCC Membership request that it be re-examined.”

SK said that this had been seconded by GM by email. AB said that he too would support the motion.

DC said that he felt the second sentence was unnecessarily harsh, though he understood why SK had added it. Accordingly DC said that he would like to see an amendment whereby the second sentence was deleted. This was proposed by the MCG and seconded by the Moles CC. There was a vote. The amendment was carried unanimously.

There was then a vote on the amended motion:

“Whilst recognising the good intentions of those promoting Individual Membership of the CSCC, this Meeting considers that at the present time the benefits of this proposal are not sufficiently overwhelming as to warrant its adoption.”

The Meeting voted: For: 5, Against: 1, Abstentions: 3. The CSCC will not therefore be introducing a category of Individual Membership in the near future.

As a result of this outcome the Caver Questionnaire suggested at the previous Meeting need not now go ahead.

17. ASSISTANCE TO UNIVERSITY CLUBS

SK reminded everyone that this issue had arisen out of the Council’s discussions about membership at its December 2005 Meeting. That Meeting had asked SK to write to the CHECC Clubs in the Region to try and ascertain what issues and problems they faced as University Caving Clubs and whether there might be anything the CSCC could do to assist.

Following the December Meeting SK had contacted CHECC in order to get contact emails for the Southern Universities and subsequently sent out an email on 15th December. The response was not fast, or overwhelming (though the Christmas and New Year holidays and mock exams in January no doubt had an effect) but eventually some very useful feedback was received. SK said that in this regard he particularly wished to thank the then President of Exeter University SS.

The main issues that the respondents highlighted were a lack of mentoring/training (as ‘old hands’ moved away) to satisfy their University’s or Union’s Safety Officers or Insurers, and a lack of knowledge about where to go, where to stay and how to get access to caves in a particular area.

Unfortunately these replies came in just after the February Meeting of the CSCC and so email discussions took place between the CSCC Officers. But there was a consensus of opinion that the CSCC could organise a ‘training event’ for University Clubs in the Autumn. The suggestion was that rather than try and emulate the CHECC Seminar, or to try and train novices in ladder & line techniques, the CSCC could focus on imparting regional knowledge to those people in the University Clubs that actually ran the trips (ie, Caving Secretaries, etc), whilst perhaps also providing some basic refresher training.

The Meeting agreed that this seemed a worthwhile pursuit. Dates were discussed and November seemed a good compromise (after the start of the new academic year, but before the weather started to get too bad and before the Christmas/New Year holidays). CB and SK agreed to investigate when the Long Room at the Hunters might be used for slide shows and lectures.

{Note added in proof: CB & SK identified the weekend of 18/19 November, and SK sent out an email to the CHECC and the CHECC Clubs he had previously contacted advertising these dates. He was quickly contacted by Chris Jewell from the CHECC Committee who advised him that CHECC were already planning two events in November – SK & CB were not to know this, and nothing had yet been put on the CHECC website about them! After further discussions, SK & CJ have agreed that the CSCC event should be postponed until late February 2007. The actual date will be advised in due course.}

As part of the same theme, the CSCC would like to invite its Member Clubs – particularly those with huts – to consider what assistance they might give to University Clubs and cavers.

18. BCA MATTERS

Report on the BCA AGM & Council Meeting, 25th March 2006:

SK had represented the CSCC. DC and LW had attended in their capacities as a BCA Club Representative and the BCA Publications & Information Officer, respectively. In addition to the points raised under the Secretary’s report, the following issues were also aired:

- That caving had lost its UK Sport grant and that the Sport England grant will also soon be gone.
- That BCA’s administration had left a lot to be desired in 2005 was recognised and accepted. Remedial measures were already being put in place.
- That the BCA Membership Administrator had given notice that she intended to resign. Her part-time post will be advertised in the caving press.
- Support was given to a proposal for the UK to bid to host the 2013 UIS Conference. The bid will now be worked up.
- The BCA Website now has an events diary page.

19. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MRO Rescue Workshop. GB Cavern, Saturday 3rd June 2006. **** THIS WORKSHOP HAS BEEN CANCELLED ****

Cerberus Spelaeological Society 50th Anniversary Open Day & Party, June 17th 2006, CSS, Stoke St Michael.
Contact r-gledhill@tiscali.co.uk for details.

BCA Council Meeting, June 17th 2006
Hidden Earth 2006, September 22nd - 24th 2006, Leek, Staffordshire
BCA Council Meeting, October 7th 2006
BCA Council Meeting, January 13th 2007
BCA Annual General Meeting & Council Meeting, March 24th 2007

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Malcolm Cotter:

The Meeting noted with regret the news that Malcolm Cotter, the founder of the MCG, had died whilst participating in a Club digging trip in Upper Flood Swallet the previous Sunday. He was over 70 but still caved almost every week.

TF provided news that his funeral was to take place on Friday 12th May. The cortege is to leave Unwins Funeral Directors in Wells at 11 am and then progress to the tree plantation beyond the SMCC hut, via Wookey Hole, Ebbor Gorge, The Queen Vic, the New Inn, Eastwater Cavern and the St Cuthberts lead works site, before arriving at 12:30 when a short non-religious service will be held. The wake will be at the Hunters from 1 pm.

The family have asked that as an alternative to flowers they would rather the money be donated to the British Heart Foundation (see <http://www.bhf.org.uk/>) or to the MCG Upper Flood Digging Fund (please make cheques payable to "Mendip Caving Group Upper Flood Dig" and send to the MCG Hon. Treasurer, Martin Rowe, 11 Church Hill, Arnside, Carnforth, Lancs. LA5 0DB).

CSCC Subscriptions:

DC pointed out that the Treasurer had not made a recommendation in his report as to the level of the CSCC subscription for 2006/7. DC said that he proposed that they should remain at £15 (for Direct Membership) and £3 (for BCA Secondary Membership). This was agreed by the Meeting, subject to the agreement of the Treasurer.

ACTION: Treasurer to confirm if the proposed CSCC subscription rates are acceptable.

21. DATES OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS

(all at the Hunters Inn, Priddy, 10:30)

September 9th 2006
December 2nd 2006
February 3rd 2007
May 5th 2007 (AGM)

APPENDIX 1

CSCC Member Clubs as at 6th May 2006

1. Ashford Speleological Society
 2. Avon Scouts Caving Section
 3. Axbridge Caving Group
 4. Bracknell District Caving Club
 5. Bristol Exploration Club
 6. Cerberus Speleological Society
 7. Cheddar Caving Club
 8. Cotham Caving Group
 9. Cotham Speleological Society
 10. East Sussex Scouts Caving Team
 11. Education in the Environment Caving Club
 12. Essex County Scout Caving Team
 13. Exeter University Speleological Society
 14. Frome Caving Group
 15. Greater London South Caving Committee
 16. Hampshire Scouts Caving Club
 17. Hewlett Packard Caving Club
 18. Mendip Caving Group
 19. Mendip Nature Research Committee
 20. Moles Caving Club (The)
 21. Shepton Mallet Caving Club
 22. South Bristol Speleological Society
 23. South Wales Caving Club
 24. Southsea Speleological Society
 25. Taunton Caving Club
 26. Toby Caving Club
 27. University of Bristol Speleological Society
 28. Wealden Cave & Mine Society
 29. Wessex Cave Club
 30. Wimps and Y Anchors Caving Club (inc. ISG)
 31. Young Bristol
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ATTACHMENT 1

CSCC Meeting 6th May 2006 - Treasurers Report

1) Bank Balance

As at 3rd Feb 2006

Current £30.11
Reserve £4139.90

This takes into account payment to CNCC for bolting supplies as requested by AA. Also includes £300 interim payment from BCA. Further funding is to be determined at the Regional Treasurers meeting. Date to be decided.

Simply based on the above, there is a predicted shortfall of £180 for 2006, following 5yrs of growth in the overall cash balance. However.....

2) Gibbets Brow Funding

I have previously sent several emails to Elsie Little regarding the "procedure" for claiming money for the above from the BCA and never had a response. Occasionally tried phoning but maybe not the right times etc etc.

Chris Binding put a letter together recently and I couldn't add to it so we await response.

Therefore if we were getting a full claim back from the BCA for the Gibbets Brow, then add £450 to the figures above and we will again be in surplus for the year.

Chris Whale
28th April 2006