



COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS

A constituent member of the British Caving Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 17th May 2008

Present				Apologies for Absence	
Alan Gray	Chairman (ACG)	M.Richardson	MCG Rep	Chris Whale	Treasurer
Carmen Smith	Secretary (WCC)	Alan Dempster	Avon Scouts		
Chris Binding	SCG rep	Rob Norcross	Moles CC		
Graham Price	CSS rep	Les Williams (WCC)	C&A		
Steve King	BCA Officer (SBSS)		Officer		
David Cooke	Webmaster (WCC)	Toby Maddocks	B.E.C rep		
Alan Butcher	Training officer (SMCC)				

The meeting was represented by 10 individual club reps out of a maximum of 31 clubs. The Meeting was therefore declared Quorum.

Minutes Of the Previous Meetings

In "Actions from the previous meeting, Lost Cave of Loxton funding estimates. Where stated "The MCG rep also indicated the possible closeness.....should read "the A.C.G rep".....

Actions From the previous Meetings	Status	Officer
Lost Cave of Loxton.	Project on hold pending actions from the original diggers. Unable to progress with securing an entrance until the diggers have determined they're ability to find Catcotts original entrance. G.P suggested it could be relatively simple to secure the current access shaft using plastic pipes making the task of gating/securing this entrance less of a logistical nightmare.	L.W to determine whether the diggers are to continue/complete with this project
BCA Funding request for Mendip bolting projects 2006/2007.	Accepted by BCA £197.50 due	

1. Chairman's Report

a) I have been the chairman of the CSCC for the past 5 years and now it is time to stand down. The work involved in this post is not great but I must thank all the CSCC officers past and present for all their efforts the vast majority of which are invisible to CSCC members.

b) Enclosed is a report on the progress of a jointly funded project to relocate access to Fernhill cave, part of the fairy cave quarry complex.

"Between 4th and 11th of April a large digger and Bulldozer were on site, about 2000 tons of spoil was shifted and the entrance rift exposed. 30 feet of concrete rings were installed and the void around them backfilled. A temporary gate has been fitted with a CSCC key. The base of the pipes have been stabilised using walling and concrete and the rift is partially blocked. The original entrance was about 10 feet to the right of the pipes so either a way down will have to be engineered or a dig to the right under the spoil."

c) C.B Informed the meeting that the lock for Hillwithy was missing and would need replacing. A.G agreed to fit the new padlock as he was at the fairy quarry on a regular basis. L.W provided A.G with a new padlock. (Post meeting note A.G has discovered the entire gate for Hillwithy needs repairing first. An approach to the onsite atlas diggers is being made)

2. Secretary's Report

a) DCA/BCA Circulars/agendas/Minutes Received. 2008/9 BCA meeting dates received.

b) An email was received from the new BCA newsletter editor. Mike Clayton, who would like to receive ASAP any news from the CSCC, on matters of interest such as "Changes in access, new projects, new discoveries. If you feel you have any news that may interest the rest of the general caving population please email Mike at newsletter@british-caving.org.uk

Examples off the current BCA newsletter are available for free download from the BCA website in PDF format at www.british-caving.org.uk

3. Treasurers Report

Status

a) The Current Account stands at £451.11

As of 13th May 2008

b) The main Account holds £3035.35

As of 13th May 2008

c) Pending debits are an Invoice expected from the Fernhill project for approx £250 and £7 for the MCRA (Mendip Cave Registry & Archive) webhosting.

Post meeting note- invoice has been submitted for £250 for the concrete rings.

d) The 2006/7 accounts submitted awaiting approval

Accounts will be submitted online Once they are approved.

e) A BCA treasures meeting is planned for July .

f) £197.50 was successfully claimed for CSCC Bolting projects. Funding to come from the BCA.

g) Overall the funding is down slightly over the past few years, this is possible due to the fact that we receive no direct funding from membership applications now that everything is applied for through the BCA.

L.W reminded everyone that many CSCC projects will receive funding from the BCA The method for funding is firstly to submit the funding request/project details to the CSCC for approval, who will then in turn pass the project to the BCA for approval.

G.P asked if there was a list of such items/projects that could be funded by the BCA.

D.C said there was on the Website – Appendix 2 in

http://csc.org.uk/Documents/BCA_2004.11.28_minutes.pdf

S.K reminded everyone that as yet B.C.A had not turned down any CSCC project funding request.

4. Conservation and Access Officers Report

Proposals

a) The concrete rings to secure access to Fernhill are now in place

Awaiting Invoice for payment

b) A Funding request has been resubmitted from the Wealden who successfully secured access to Bedlam Bank Stone quarry in East Surrey (Reigate area). The total for the project ran to £1200. (including building materials and legal expenses) There is currently a 3 year license agreement in place to access this Mine. (see initial application ?????)

It was noted that BCA do not provide funding for legal expenses, however the meeting felt that the CSCC should part contribute to the costs and ask the BCA for a contribution too. But more information on the terms of the access agreement, the expiration date of the current 3 year agreement, and the renewal prospects, were required.

c) Box Mines and Compton martin Ochre Mine. L.W continued to give praise to the Darkplaces members largely spearheaded by Chris Davies for all the stirring work that has been done and continues to be done to conserve/maintain these two sites.(this includes installing new props, litter picking, removal of graffiti, rebuilding dry stone walls, installation of new gates, clearing paths/routes.

Work continues all year round subject to Bat roosting season

d) Eastwater Cavern access fee is now £1

D.C to update CSCC website

e) C.B reported a group had recently been denied access to Bleadon cavern by the landowner. Access to Caves/mines on this

Info on the CSCC website.

site are best gained (but not guaranteed) by contacting Chris Richards.

f) An email was received from Stoke St Michael Parish Council asking the following
“Is there any obligation for landowners to make secure the entrance to a cave system “

L.W replied, after consulting BCA’s Legal and Insurance Officer:-

“There is no legal obligation for a landowner to secure a cave entrance upon their land. There is no liability placed upon the Parish Council for anything that is located upon private ground even if a footpath runs nearby.

There are no legal responsibilities to be met by anyone, cave entrances are natural features of the landscape.”

g) Withybrook Slocker. A report was given on the status of this cave by G.P

Graham & Chrissy Price purchased the site in Sept 06 after discovering that the cave was blocked. Silt traps in the inlet structure were full and the pipe beneath the road blocked with silt. Somerset County Council emptied the silt traps and cleared the pipe following which it revealed that the structure and adjacent road was subsiding and that there was a large cavity beneath the road where the pipes had partially collapsed. The cave entrance was cleared and vast amounts of silt were found underground blocking the passages. There were major problems that needed solving to recover the cave and protect the Fairy Cave Quarry caves downstream. Chris Binding visited the site and wrote a letter of support for G&C in their efforts to solve the problems.

Many cavers from different clubs have been helping remove the silt, although there is still much to get out and further offers of help would be appreciated. To provide a long term solution to the problem Somerset County Council have diverted the watercourse via a very large new silt trap into an ancient swallet which was uncovered during excavations. The road has been repaired and a stilling basin installed upstream. As the site is an SSSI the works have all been done with the involvement of Natural England as well as G&C as landowners. The original inlet structure is being repaired. SCC should be commended for their efforts in providing a long term solution to the problem and protecting the SSSI.

Chris Binding & Carmen had visited the site. CB said that the engineering works were very impressive and exemplary (far beyond his initial high expectations that a thorough job would be undertaken/overseen by G&C when he originally visited the site as Conservation & Access Officer back in early 2007).

GP said that he and Chrissy would welcome anyone who was interested in having a look.

5. Equipment/Bolting Officers Report

a) Not present at Meeting

6. Training Officers Report

a) Alan reported that after a year of being unable to attend central training meetings for a variety of reasons, it was time he stood down.

He remained disappointed and disheartened at the way the Training Committee meetings were organised, targeted, and run from a professional cavers point of view, with particular concerns about the scheduling of meetings, the lateness of agendas, and the general lack of subsequent feedback and correspondence afterwards.

Action

C.S to write to BCA training officer.

7. Webmasters Report

a) D.C reports that he has a WIKI style CSCC website up and running on a trial basis (on another secure web location for now) Committee members wishing to update info on the site will now be able to without having to go through Cookie.

It is hoped that this will keep the website more up to date.

Please contact him if you require a log on and haven’t received one.

8. BCA Officers Report

a) The BCA officer reports *“For work reasons and because my tenure as an Individual Member rep on BCA National Council expired at the BCA AGM, I now wish to stand down as CSCC BCA rep. Though the position could be filled on an adhoc basis by D.C / L.W it would be better all round if another volunteer can be found.”*

b) The child protection Policy is in the process of being updated. The Child Protection in Sport Unit has made a number of leaflets available which will be distributed to clubs.

c) The next BCA meetings are 21st June, 4th Oct, 10th Jan 2009, 28th Mar 2009 (AGM)

d) Despite being the 1st year that BCA has operated without any Uk Sport/Sport England grant aid, and the the 1st year the Assosiation has incurred Corporation Tax (£22) Its been reported that the BCA accounts are very healthy making a surplus this year of £13000. This was in part due to

	a very low application for funding from the various regional councils and also a rising membership.
e)	RC's are asked to cross reference any C&A updates they may apply to their regional forum or ukCaving forum with the BCA forum as it does attract a sizeable audience.
f)	BCA Membership. Following a recent "difficulty" clubs are asked to flag to the BCA Membership administrator (for insurance reasons) the names of any CIM's they eject on disciplinary grounds.
g)	The Domain name www.trycaving.co.uk has now changed to www.trycaving.org.uk Both domain names will continue to exist for a while.
h)	An online payment service using paypal is ready to go live making payment collection easier for Club treasurers and BCA membership administrator alike.
i)	The national Council decided to widen its "Student" rate of membership to all full time students and not just those in Universities.

Motions for Discussion

None received

Election Of Officers	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded	
Chairman	Chris Binding	Graham Price	Carmen Smith	Accepted Nem Con
Secretary	Carmen Smith	Willing to serve again		Accepted Unopposed
Treasurer	Chris Whale	Willing to serve again		Accepted Unopposed
C &A	Les Williams	Willing to serve again		Accepted Unopposed
Equip/bolting	Andrew Atkinson	Willing to serve again		Accepted Unopposed
Webmaster	David Cooke	Willing to serve again		Accepted Unopposed
BCA Officer	Toby Maddock	Carmen Smith	Les Williams	Accepted Nem Con
Training	Chris Jewel(absent) C.J to be approached	Toby Maddocks	Carmen Smith	Accepted Nem Con

Any Other Business

Mendip 20008.

Chris Jewel Will be running a "Try Caving" event at this years Cavers Fair.

Andy Sparrow will be providing Training

There will be a cavers Challenge on Saturday evening at 5pm on the top green. All clubs wishing to try out there fitness and agility skills against other cavers are invited to construct a Chariot for the event and supply teams of 6 people.

Further info from Les Williams the Mendip section of <http://ukcaving.com/board/index.php/topic,6408.0.html>

Forthcoming Events

June 6/7/8th Mendip 2008 Cavers Fair. Les Williams organizing

June 20th CNCC Meeting

June 21st BCA meeting Alvechurch Worcs.

June 28th DCA meeting

July 11th-13th Priddy Folk Fair

July 11th- 13th NAMHO Middlesbrough, Scotland..

Sept 26th- 28th Hidden Earth Otley Leeds

Dates of next meeting

13th Sept 2008 Hunters Lodge 10.30 am

13th Dec 2008 Hunters Lodge 10.30 am

14th Feb 2008 Hunters Lodge 10.30 am (no valentines day excuses)

16th May 2008 Hunters Lodge 10.30 am (AGM)

