

## **Chair's Report**

Cave The Sun. Whilst the numbers weren't exceptional, those who turned up had a great evening enjoying good company and a very tasty hog roast. A report is provided. A small loss was made. It needs to be considered how to change that to a surplus if we run an event next year.

Longleat EGM. Thank you to all those who attended the EGM at short notice. The proposal that was passed at that meeting needs to be ratified at this meeting. The C&A Officer and I attended a meeting with Longleat to sign the agreement but it wasn't to be. Further details are in Wayne's report.

BCA Communications. We have officers that in general match the BCA Working Groups. In the first instance I would expect our officers would raise and discuss issues in the corresponding BCA working group. In that way not all BCA issues are handled by our BCA Officer which could be overwhelming. The reverse is true for information coming back the other way. Currently this isn't going as smoothly as it could. The BCA C&A Working Group seems to be defunct. Another example is that the BCA Risk Assessment was circulated by BCA too late to be consulted on before their Council meeting. I'd appreciate thoughts on this.

David Cooke  
August 2025

# Treasurer's Report Aug 2025

2024's completed and examined accounts attached below.

## 2025 Spending Since May 2025

A further, £654 was spent on costs towards Cave the Sun Event, on top of the £220 spent as reported to the last meeting.

The Conservation Officer was reimbursed £50 for construction materials for Thrupe Lane and the Equipment Officer was reimbursed £57 for a Resin Purchase. We have also made the £25 Harridge Woods, Somerset Wildlife Trust donation.

## Proposed New Clubs

No New Clubs

Tom Harrison Aug 2025

## CSCC Accounts Summary 2024

### Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

		2024	2023
		£	£
<b>Income</b>			
Subs		30.00	30.00
Donations		-	-
Net Interest		2.28	1.46
BCA Funding	note 1	836.00	5,188.00
Sundry		-	-
Somerset Community Fund Grant for Maine's Barn		-	2,000.00
Gate Sale		-	100.00
Key Sales		30.75	40.00
<b>Total income</b>		<b>899.03</b>	<b>7,359.46</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	note 2	<b>Core</b>	
Officer Travel Expenses	note 3	74.75	-
Web Server		23.07	23.07
Resin		64.99	64.99
C&A - Harridge Wood		25.00	25.00
2022 Photography Course		-	50
Singing River Gate		-	800
Maillons		-	36
Maine's Barn Renovation		-	1984.5

<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>187.81</b>	<b>113.06</b>	<b>2,870.50</b>
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<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>785.97</b>	<b>4,488.96</b>
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**Statement of Funds Available as at 31st December 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
<b>Balance brought forwards from previous year</b>		
Current account	4,654.17	206.67
Reserve account	147.42	105.96
Cash	-	-
	<b>4,801.59</b>	<b>312.63</b>

<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>785.97</b>	<b>4,488.96</b>
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<b>Balance carried forwards to next year</b>	<b>5,587.56</b>	<b>4,801.59</b>
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**At 31st December**

Current account	5427.11	4,654.17
Reserve account	160.45	147.42
Cash	-	-
Accounts Payable: Travel Exp. note 3	(74.75)	-

<b>Funds Available</b>	<b>5,512.81</b>	<b>4,801.59</b>
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**Notes**

1. Previous year's BCA claim paid in full.
  2. Core expenditure is claimable from BCA. The 2024 claim will be £187.81.
  3. Travel expenses claim received but not yet paid
- At the year end, membership was 40 clubs of which 39 were also BCA members.

**Honorary Scrutineer's Report**

I have examined the above accounts. In my opinion they are in accordance with the Council's accounting records and explanations provided.

Graham Mullan

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## Cave The Sun Fund Raiser 31st May 2025

Whilst the numbers weren't exceptional, those who turned up had a great evening enjoying good company and a very tasty hog roast. Overall the event made a small loss of £80.32.

The caving part of the event during the day didn't resonate with no teams entered.

It is important for CSCC should run events like this to promote itself but some though needs to be given to attracting more people.

I would like to thank the volunteers who put in a great deal of time and effort: Faye Litherland and Ann Cooke on catering, Dave King, running the bar, Helen Dear ordering the cups and finally but by no mean least Dave Keegan for managing the entire event.

David Cooke

August 2025

### **Income**

Door	125.00
Hog Roast	210.00
Bar	242.00
Cups (28 sold)	56.00
Pork Sales	50.00

Total	<hr/> 683.00
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### **Expenditure**

Hall	220.00
1/2 Pig	140.52
Calor Gas	47.50
Rolls, Stuffing, Sauce, etc.	58.83
FL Travel	36.00

Beer	129.30
Wine etc	32.39
DK Travel	49.05
Cups	49.73

Total	<hr/> 763.32
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<b>Surplus/(Loss)</b>	<hr/> <hr/> <b>(80.32)</b>
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## **Conservation & Access Report - CSCC Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

Please find below the Conservation & Access Officer's Report. This covers the period since the last meeting in May 2025.

### **Longleat**

A final draft of the Access Agreement was submitted to Longleat and their Estates Director confirmed it was acceptable. A CSCC EGM was held to ratify the agreement and elect two officers to sign it. Following this, a date, the 8<sup>th</sup> August, was set with Longleat to sign the agreement.

In the meanwhile, an inspection trip was arranged to Lloyd Hall in Gough's cave. The purpose of the trip was to inspect the various fixed aids and platforms installed some years ago by the Cave Diving Group. The Technical Officer of the CDG, Mike Thomas, accompanied me. All the bolts and fixed ladders were found to be in good order. The wooden decking on the Hauling Platform seems solid but probably needs replacing and the decking on the Diver's Platform definitely needs replacing (once the several tons of silt have been removed from it). The CDG will undertake this work once access is restored.

Dave Cooke and I attended the signing meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> but, unfortunately, Georgia Verdon (Longleat's Estates Manager) explained that the legal review of the agreement has not yet been completed and thus they could not sign the agreement. She is hoping the review will be completed during the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

### **Eastwater**

A report was received of a broken ladder. This is the one mentioned in the Mendip Underground that leads down to the balcony overlooking the Chamber of Horrors. A CSCC bulleting was sent out to warn people. Having reviewed the situation, with a number of different cavers who have recently visited this area, it transpires that the ladder is rarely used and thus there is no intention to replace it.

### **Stoke Lane Slocker**



A report was received from Pete Hall that a large boulder has been deliberately dropped into the entrance of Stoke Lane Slocker. He managed to move it to one side but it was severely restricting access. An inspection visit was undertaken. The boulder was quite large (triangular 1m by 0.5m at the base and around 0.5m thick). Judging by the scuff marks around the entrance, the boulder had been forced in rather than being washed in.

The boulder succumbed to Plug and Feathers and the resultant pieces were used to form a rough wall to the right of the stream sink. Whilst there, the opportunity was taken to

remove a lot of debris from the stream sink and this was stashed behind the new wall (see picture below).



### **Thrupe Lane Swallet**

An assessment visit to Butt's Chamber, in Thrupe Lane Swallet, was completed. The purpose of the visit was to look at the options to stabilise the large boulder that was on the move and threatening to block access from Perseverance Pot. It was decided the best approach would be to build a wall up, underneath the boulder, to support it. Three working trips were undertaken. A large quantity of sand and cement (some 300kg of materials) were transported through Hobnail Hole and used to complete the wall. The CSCC contributed £50 towards the materials. A report from Atlas is being prepared for publication.

### **Rickford Farm Cave**



The owner of Rickford Farm got in touch, via Jude Vanderplank, to ask if it would be possible to arrange for her to visit Rickford Farm Cave. A date was set and the trip took place without incident. The cave is only some 50m long but is very well decorated in parts. There were no conservation issues and the landowner very much enjoyed the experience. Due to the location of the entrance (in the garden of a private residence – under the flower trough in the picture above), the landowner does not want to allow general access. However, anyone with a valid reason may be allowed access and should contact the CSCC C&A Officer to seek permission.

### **Waterwheel Swallet**

A report was received from Ruth Revell that the traverse rope, beside the lake at the bottom of the cave, was in a very poor state. An inspection visit was undertaken and, indeed, the rope was worn down to the core and only a few of the cores were still intact. The old rope was removed and a replacement has been put in place.

### **Hilliers Cave**

The padlock on Hilliers Cave, in Fairy Cave Quarry, was vandalised and a replacement padlock has been provided. I believe Dave King has installed it and also took the opportunity to grease the hinges and slide bolt.

### **Stock Hill Mine Cave**

The exploration of Stock Hill Mine Cave has been completed. Over the last 7 years, some 1.5km of passageway has been discovered by the diggers. The cave offers a rather sporting trip with some unusual geology on display. A survey is available and a full description has been written for the forthcoming version of Mendip Underground. The diggers would like the CSCC to takeover access control and they are happy having a CSCC padlock installed. The entrance is in Stock Hill Woods and thus falls under the existing access arrangement with the Forestry Commission. The existing lid is fit-for-purpose but would benefit from having a mechanism to allow it to be locked and unlocked from the inside. I will approach the BCA to see if they would be willing to fund this.

### **Harridge Woods**

The Harridge Wood Nature Reserve access agreement is ready to go but is still waiting for the CSCC to complete the work required to provide an online permit system.

### **Pressure Washers**

The Wealden Cave and Mine Society have borrowed the CSCC Pressure Washers, along with a supply of Pig Tail Risers and Conservation Tape for a clean-up project. We look forward to receiving a report of their achievements in due course.

### **Miscellaneous**

A few minor tasks have been completed. These include:-

- A new style CSCC key was sent to the South Wales Caving Club as they appear to only have had to older "Pipaz" style key.
- The locks at Wookey Hole Cave have recently been changed. This shouldn't be an issue for official trips, as the keys are collected from the Hotel for each visit. A copy of the new keys have been collected on behalf of MCR.

### **Future Priorities**

In the coming months I will be concentrating on the following priorities:-

- 1) Agree a formal access agreement for the Caves of Cheddar Gorge
- 2) Arrange and complete the training of Wardens for the Cheddar Caves
- 3) Finalise the access arrangements (on-line facilities) for Harridge Woods
- 4) Seek BCA Funding for Stock Hill Mine Cave lid modifications

If anyone has anything else they would like progressing then please let me know.

Wayne Starsmore  
C&A Officer  
CSCC

## Equipment Officers Report

Anchor(s) were reported loose on the Sago's Pot in Hunters Hole. Matty and I check and although there is movement it is within the acceptable limits, but only just, it probably should go on the none urgent replacement list.

LVS has had another 16 anchors places, in various different places, thanks to Matty and Pete Buckley.

An attempt has been made to change the anchors on Gladman's and Lolly Pot in Eastwater Cavern. It did not go well. The anchors that were in there snapped with a very low force. Currently the it is unlikely that the pitches can be rigged safely. Hopefully this will be resolved by the meeting!

Andrew Atkinson  
August 2025



## **Communications Officer's Report: Peter Burgess**

I have continued to put out a newsletter every three months. I have changed the publication dates to post-date CSCC meetings as this allows prompt dissemination of matters discussed and agreed by Council. My thanks to Cookie for stepping in for one of the issues in 2024.

Regular channels for communications are as follows:

- CSCC newsletter
- CSCC email subscribers by MailChimp
- CSCC Club Rep email list.
- CSCC Facebook page
- UKCaving website

I am happy to continue in the role of Comms Officer for a further year.

Peter Burgess  
CSCC Communications Officer

## **Webmaster's Report**

The website has now been moved away from the BCA server to a new provider. I had intended that Provider to be Krystal but in the end they could not support the mailing list software. The new provider is Hetzner. The difference is that Hetzner provide virtual servers whereas Krystal could only provide a shared server which is less flexible. The cost is very similar.

The mailing list software is ready to turn on, which I'll do after the meeting. I didn't want to run the risk of breaking the existing mailing list just before a meeting.

David Cooke  
August 2025