



# Council of Southern Caving Clubs

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## General Meeting 02/02/13 Hunters Lodge Inn, Priddy

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Graham Price (Chair/Cerberus Rep) GP Hayley Clark (Secretary/MCG Rep) HC Alan Gray (ACG Rep) AG Mark Williams (BCA Officer) MW Dave Cundy (Treasurer/SBSS Rep) DC Philip Cridland (Old Mateys Caving Club) PC Les Williams (C&A Officer/WCC Rep) LW Alan Dempster (Avon Scouts Rep) AD Keith Batten (SMCC Rep) KB	Faye Litherland (Equipment Officer/BEC Rep) FL Aubrey Newport (WCC ) AN David G Cooke (Webmaster) DGC

**Meeting started at 10.02 am.**

### 1) Minutes of the previous meeting (03/11/12)

Amendments to :-

14.2 should be for LW as well as DGC.

14.3 reword to:- DGC to update the CSCC Access Database software so that the C&A Officer can also update the cave access details on the website

### Actions from previous meetings: -

- Update to CSCC handbook LW and DGC **Ongoing**
- FL to write promotional text for CSCC, LW has made progress he has found people who can provide photos; now need to get text to go with the photos which can be used on posters etc. LW will now coordinate this, aim to be completed for Hidden Earth 2013. LW to provide an outline of photos with text for CSCC AGM in May.
- Situation in Rhino Rift **has not changed, it is still unstable and best avoided.**
- DGC and FL to do notes for Officers to use website and update their own pages **Ongoing**
- Update on situation regarding caves on Portland/with Ove Arup. LW to contact Weymouth and Portland Borough Council to let them know that CSCC need to be consulted on any applications for quarrying or that may affect caves. **Ongoing**

### 3) Other Matters arising from the previous meeting

None

### 4) Chairman's Report

**4.1** GP had contacted Aggregate Industries regarding access to Heale Farm Cave but was unable to get anyone to respond. He now had the name of the person in AI who had previously dealt with the access and would make direct contact with them.



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**4.2** AG has spoken to the two Nicks regarding possibilities at Loxton Cavern and they have advised that the opening up of Catcotts entrance would not be an easy or quick route to take and may not even be possible and that it would be better to stick with stabilising the original entrance

**4.3** GP has made further enquiries into the cost of plastic pipe for the entrance to Loxton Cavern. Rob Eavis can supply 750mm diameter at £69 per meter in 3m or 6m lengths plus £150 transport plus v.a.t. LW and GP to return to the shaft and re-measure to confirm exactly how much is needed, after re-measuring DC to contact Paul Ibbetson to update him on the costs involved which now seem to be half the last quote received and confirm that BCA are happy to fund these works

**4.4** Situation with the definitive map of rights of way is that as part of the CROW legislation there is a cut-off point of the year 2026 for adding rights of way to the definitive map. After this cut-off point if the right of way is not on the map it won't legally exist so if anyone knows of any right of way that is not on the definitive map that relate to cave access they need to report it now so it can be added, the process is lengthy hence the amount of time given for this cut-off date

**4.5** The hedge laying course that was due to be held in January was cancelled due to the snow. GP would arrange a new date for this later in the year. The 'Try Your Hand at Dry Stone Walling' days were still scheduled to take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April. Anyone interested in attending either day should contact GP.

**4.6** At the last Training Committee meeting there was a discussion and agreement about implementation of the BCA Council's decision regarding compulsory BCA membership for all LCMLA and CIC scheme members. Options as to how this can be implemented are to be discussed at the next Training Committee meeting on Tuesday 07/05/2013. At present CSCC have no training Officer in post, if no one else can attend the meeting it would be good to send written representations. Person to attend or write written representation needs to have knowledge and understand of the Training Committee and what it is about, to most people it is hard to understand, AD volunteered to go through documents and write brief summary to circulate so everyone has a better understanding of the situation

**4.7** BCA sent out consultation regarding what constitutes commercial caving, the meeting noted that this was sent out on January 29<sup>th</sup> with responses required by 17<sup>th</sup> February this was thought of as too short a time frame to discuss properly as the consultation related to the minutes of the last BCA meeting which hadn't been published at the time of the consultation going out.

After discussion the meeting agreed the following: "Commercial caving is any caving activity where any person involved on that trip is paid more than reasonable out of pocket expenses". This was voted on with 7 in favour and 1 abstention

CSCC does not have opinions on restricting access to sites. CSCC controlled caves have no restrictions on commercial cavers. CSCC negotiates access as widely as possible, and implements the rules that the landowner wishes and strives to keep access open as much as possible.

## 5) Secretary's Report.

**5.1** HC requested that she receive an email from KB confirming he is now the SMCC representative instead of Alan Butcher and provides an email address to



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send CSCC correspondence to, once received she will remove Alan Butcher from the distribution list

## 6) Treasurer's Report.

**6.1** GP has contacted Peter Burgess regarding Bedlam Bank. The WCMS treasurer was looking back through their club accounts to see what information they had on record.

**6.2** DC to look into funding for the MCRA website **ongoing**

**6.3** DC to create spreadsheet to record mileage of Officers attending CSCC meetings. Once created DC to complete on behalf of Officers using minutes to record who has attended.

**6.4** DC to go back through finances to work out how much the funds have been going down over the years and what percentage is not claimed back from BCA ongoing

**6.5** DC to chase claims from BCA **ongoing**

**6.6** CSCC Officers last claimed for mileage in 2010, DC to see if can claim for 2011 and 2012

## 7) Conservation & Access Officer's Report

**7.1** Priddy Green Sink Gate has been completed need to chase Biff Frith for his expenses for this work. Still need to look from the inside to see what the cause of the subsidence is LW to action

**7.2** Compton Martin Ochre Mine gate is ongoing

**7.3** White Pit gate is ongoing

**7.4** Thrupe Lane gate has been completed waiting for invoice to come in from Phil Candy, LW to chase

**7.5** LW has entered 9 Barrows and laid conservation tape

**7.6** Sludge Pit need to gate at landowners request (landowner will pay for 9 Barrows gate). Approx costs are £300 measurements have been taken and it is hoped that the gate and entrance works will be fitted and completed by end of March.

Much discussion on whether CSCC should pay for these works as the cave is not proposed to be CSCC controlled but by BEC, WCC and a Devon based club, and whether these clubs should be asked to contribute towards the costs. Vote was taken for CSCC to pay for the works proposed MW seconded LW that CSCC pay 7 in favour, 1 abstention. It is hoped that in the future access will become CSCC controlled

**7.7** Repair works are needed to Swildons entrance due to erosion, estimated costs £150, meeting agreed this expenditure

**7.8** Reminder to all when visiting Manor Farm Swallet to ask permission and pay the good will fee. Recently the landowner has seen people exiting late at night that have not been to see him first.



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**7.9** Need to order more conservation tape, DC to speak to the company who supplies to place order and pay

**7.10** BCA have ordered £500 worth of conservation pins of which CSCC will get a share, possibly 100 pins. Most of these are likely to end up in Reservoir Hole and Upper Flood, LW to keep eye on stock once received and then CSCC can order more when needed

## **8) Training Officer's Report**

**8.1** Still no Officer in post

## **9) Equipment Officer's Report.**

**9.1** The new bolting policy has been sorted and agreed with BCA

**9.2** Tom Chapman is CSCC's anchor placement trainer, as we have a long list of anchors that need installing he will train people whilst putting in anchors where they are needed

**9.3** An email was sent out to CSCC reps and Officers regarding the placing of anchors in Sludge Pit, no objections were made, at the meeting this was formally proposed by DC, seconded by AG and accepted nem com

## **10) BCA Rep's Report**

**10.1** Finance committee have concerns over what should/should not be funded but this is down to the clubs to decide. Paul Ibbetson will check if an expense is valid and claimable

**10.2** BCA AGM is to be held in Derbyshire on weekend 15/16<sup>th</sup> June , it is going to be made into more of an event with accommodation, food, band etc to try to encourage more people to attend please visit <http://british-caving.org.uk/?page=151> for details

**10.3** There are some vacant posts available if anyone wishes to stand and represent BCA , please visit <http://british-caving.org.uk/?page=151> for details

## **11) Webmaster's Report**

**11.1** I have installed the software for the CSCC Access Database on the C&A Officers computer so that he can also make updates (item 14.3 done). I have updated all the access changes that I know about (item 14.2 done for me) but I am aware that there are more changes but the details need clarifying, probably best done as part of the exercise for the forthcoming new edition of Mendip Underground.

## **12) Regional Registry Officer's report**

**12.1** Andrew Atkinson has re-vamped the BCA's Cave Registry Archive website ([cave-registry.org.uk](http://cave-registry.org.uk)). It now has a section for each surveying project that is making use of the archive. Have a look at the Cheddar Catchment to see the latest survey of the Reservoir Hole and a 3D model of The Frozen Deep spinning in space.

If you have a survey project old or new, this is the place to archive your survey data so that it is not lost to future generations.

## **13) Forthcoming Events.**

- 13/14 April 2013 Dry Stone walling



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## 14) AOB

**14.1** New Mendip Underground is progressing well, new proof text is almost ready. AG to liaise with LW with regards to cave access

**14.2** HC reminded Officers that the next meeting is the AGM and will be election of Officers, if any Officers are not standing again to let her know ASAP so she can email member clubs. It was also mentioned that just because Officers are prepared to stand again that there is no reason why any other interested party cannot be nominated for any position and be elected. It is urgent that we find someone to take on the Training Officer role.

Date of next meeting is AGM 10am Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Meeting Closed: 12:30