



# Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the British Caving Association

[www.csccl.org.uk](http://www.csccl.org.uk)

## Minutes of General Meeting – Friday 19 Nov 2021

Approved

### 1 Attendance

#### Voting Attendees

#### 13 Voting reps

Alan Gray	ACG	AG	
Aubrey Newport	White Rabbit	AN	
Dave Cooke	Cheddar CC	DC	Acting Treasurer/Webmaster
Dave King	MNRC	DK	
Estelle Sandford	BEC	ES	
Frank Tully	WCC	FT	Secretary
Graham Price	Cerberus CC	GP	C&A
Hayley Clarke	MCG	HC	
Henry Morgan	UBSS	HM	
James Colville	Exeter Uni (EUSS)	JC	
Judi Durber	EECC	JD	
Peter Burgess	Wealden CMS	PB	
Tim Ball	SMCC	TB	

#### Non Voting Attendees (Observers)

Andrew Atkinson	AA	Equipment
Chris Binding	CB	
Dave Keegan	DwK	Training Officer
Ed Waters	EW	Chair
Graham Mullan	GM	CCC Ltd rep
Linda Wilson	LiW	BCA Rep
Pete Hall	PH	Comms Officer

20 meeting attendees

### 2 Apologies for Absence

Barry Wilkinson  
Alan Dempster  
Geoff Dommit

### 3 Approval of minutes from AGM 14 May 2021

Minutes approved with corrections, Proposed LJW. Seconded DC, Vote passed Nem Con  
BEC, Shepton, Exeter MCG, UBSS; Abstained because they were not at the meeting.

EW In future can the secretary record which way each rep voted in the meeting so that the clubs can check that their reps voted the way they were instructed.

### 4 Chairman's report Ed Waters

I have written a statement in the CSCC newsletter, <https://csccl.org.uk/wiki/documents/start>

#### 4.1 Should meetings continue as zoom virtual meetings?

Discussion took place with attendees broadly in favour of zoom meetings.



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EW The reps seem happy to continue holding meetings via zoom, there does seem to be at least some appetite to consider a physical or hybrid meeting in the near future. Can I ask that reps and individuals take this to their clubs and bring some suggestions to the next meeting.

### Action on Reps

#### 4.2 Timing of the four CSCC meetings

The timing of the four CSCC meetings is a bit odd in that there is a big gap over the summer, I realise the reason for this is to avoid the holiday and expedition period.

ES The meeting has moved away from weekends and is now easier for members to attend via zoom.

FT The constitution defines the AGM as in May. It is at the AGM where the meeting dates are suggested and agreed upon.

Action on the secretary FT, to space the proposed meetings more evenly at the next AGM.

#### 4.3 Comments on the chairman's statement in the news letter.

DC I have an issue with the fourth paragraph. I am not happy with the suggestion that we have been less than constructive. I think we have followed the procedures and processes as set down in the BCA constitution.

EW Myself and DC have discussed this issue over a few emails, although I agree that we have followed the letter of the constitution, I feel that on some cases we have not followed the spirit. This is part of the platform on which I came in to stand as chairman. I do not think there was any malice involved and perhaps what didn't come across well in the statement was that it was a two way issue and not the fault of any individual.

DC The reason I am unhappy is people in the wider world may only read the statement in the newsletter and will not read the deeper explanation given in this meeting. Basically as we have discussed outside the meeting I am disappointed and concerned with the statement in the chairman report.

### 5 Secretary's report Frank Tully

It's been a quiet quarter from the secretary's point of view.

#### 5.1 New Members

No new member applications

### 6 C&A Report

C&A report has been published on the website.

As stated in the past I have not reported on issues which there is no news.



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### 6.1 C&A Assistant

EW GP has put in a huge amount of effort on behalf of CSCC, often upwards of 10 hours a week. I have no complaints with what GP is doing, my only worry is who is going to take over from GP when he eventually starts to spend more time in the Hunters and not looking after CSCC's C&A issues.

DC A lot of the work GP does is developing personal contacts with the parish councils and landowners, perhaps an assistant could tag along with these meetings.

The meeting did not come up with any ideas of how to usefully assist Graham.

#### Action of officers to bring to the next officers meeting:

We have descriptions of the officers roles but could the officers look at developing some operating procedures for their roles. For example a list of caves with their land owners and their contact details; Or details of the bank accounts.

### Ubley Warren

The Ubley Warren gates have been damaged, I am proposing we make up some housings to protect the locks. I need £300 to protect the locks from damage with angle grinders

Proposed to DK (MNRC, Seconded JD (EECC), Vote Passed Unanimous

### 7 Treasurer

CSCC are operating without a treasurer.

DC BCA's claim for 2020 has been paid, approximately £3500. CSCC are Solvent again.

BCA subs are going up in 2020, from £17 to £20.

The end of year is coming up, could officers please send in their expenses.

EW We desperately need a treasurer, is any one attending the meeting knows someone who could fit this role, could you persuade them to come forward.

### 8 Equipment Officer

AA Report is published on the website.

AA Eastwater, the 35' pitch (commonly called dolphin pitch) has needed rebolting for many years. I am proposing that we replace them as soon as I get some more anchors

Proposed FT (WCC), Seconded PB (Wealdon CMG), Vote Passed Unanimous.



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### 8.1 Hunters Hole

GP A deviation hanger appears to have come loose on the first pitch. The hanger nut and washer have been found and replaced.

AA This sounds like one of the old spits or a new non-CSCC approved stud. The CSCC approved anchors are P hangers. I'll have a look in the next few weeks.

### 9 Communications Officer

PH Report has been shared on the website. Report was read out at the meeting for people who had not read it.

#### The newsletter,

Has been circulated, I have had some feedback that it does not work well on a mobile phone, I shall look into this.

#### Social Media

As it stands, the vast majority of content shared via our Facebook page is re-posted content from others. We are currently producing very little original content and the only way this will change is if people doing work for CSCC report it at the time, so it can be shared. I feel this is key to improving engagement.

#### 9.1 Use of UK Caving Forum

Please read communications officer report.

PH My proposal is that the CSCC UKCaving account would be 'postable' to any of the officers of CSCC, I would only ask that officer make it clear in the post, the capacity in which they are posting.

DC My main problem with UK caving is that there is no democratic recourse for people who feel aggrieved. In my opinion the UK caving forum should be hosted by BCA which would then have a proper complaints procedure.

EW My key point is that we should be distributing news as widely as possible so that as many of our members can read about what we are doing. We should not be boycotting one outlet whilst using another.

EW I realise that emotions run high regarding this issue and I thank everyone for being very measured and civil.

EW I would hope that which ever way this vote goes it is the last time we vote on it.

Vote to publish CSCC news on the UKCaving forum under our own title

Proposed, HC (MCG), Seconded JD (EECC),

For; HC (MCG); JD (EECC); FT (WCC); HM (UBSS); JC (Exeter Uni).

Against; DC (Cheddar CC); GP Cerberus; AN (White Rabbit)

Abstain; ES (BEC); AG (ACG), DK (MNRC); PB (Wealdon CMG).

EW That vote has been passed, I would ask that we have a review of the traffic on our social media presented to at least the next few meetings.



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### Action on the communications officer and the other officers

Could we bring to the next meeting a process for publishing officer reports on social media, and your thoughts on the matter.

### 10 Training Officer

The BCA training committee has been disbanded and the functions have been merged with the Equipment and techniques committee functions. These functions these committees performed will now be exercised by the 'training and equipment' working group. The first draft of the terms of reference for this working group have just been circulated. I will discuss this with AA following this meeting and present a report for the next meeting.

The photography workshop has not been forgotten, I am currently developing the training course.

EW The BCA training committee function has been merged with the equipment and techniques committee functions, however CSCC maintains separate rolls and officers.

DC Is there a requirement for regional councils to have representation on the new 'training and equipment' working group?

DK I have not studied the terms of reference in detail, however I will be pushing for this to be the case.

### 11 BCA Representative

LW The report has been published in the news letter.

I will be attending the next BCA meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 19:00.

I am not anticipating any significant votes on any issues, but will raise anything with the members when the agenda is published.

The CRoW hearing is scheduled for 22 December, as of now I have not seen any written report from Dave Rose.

Howard the current BCA treasurer, has had an accident at home and is recovering, this has delayed things a little but it is believed that he is improving.

EW On behalf of CSCC I wish Howard all the best with his recovery.

AN Could you ask the next BCA to be more open regarding news on the CRoW court case, the last news on their website was the 13<sup>th</sup> February.

LW I have reported any news regarding the CRoW court case in my BCA reports. The BCA reports have been generally buried in the council meeting minutes. Communication as a whole is one of the issues that the new BCA executive will have to deal with.

### 12 Webmasters Report

Webmasters report has been published on the website.



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I am currently testing a modern up to date forum, and they have improved a lot in the last few years. I will circulate the address for this forum so people can have a look at it. My main issue would be, does the meeting think people will use it?

PH The MailChimp system statistics are 43 out of 83 on the mailing list opened the news letter. What is the level of engagement we would expect for a CSCC forum? In my opinion it will initially be low, however this might build traction. The level of discussion on Facebook is very limited.

Action Could club reps ask their clubs and bring back their thoughts to the next meeting.

### 13 AOB

#### 13.1 Gender Neutrality

LW, EW Question regarding the gender neutrality of the CSCC constitution, there has been a complaint from one of our members regarding this.

<https://csccl.org.uk/wiki/about/constitution>

EW Action on the secretary develop a proposal to change the constitution for the next AGM.

#### 13.2 Agenda

HC The Agenda came out on last Friday. A week is not enough time for club reps to go to their committees and get a mandate for votes.

Can we have the agenda a 'good couple of weeks' ahead of the meeting?

In addition can we have more detail in the agenda, for example can we have UK caving under the comms officer?

FT The actions on the representatives were in the minutes of the last meeting.

ES The CSCC meetings are quarterly and club meetings are monthly or six weekly, I need an action point list to take to my club. This is separate to the action points in the minutes of the meeting, these action points need to be out there before the draft minutes.

EW This is a point really well made, I will take this to the next officers meeting.

Action on the secretary to bring the details to the next officers meeting.

#### 13.3 Shute Shelf

AG The Shute Shelf gate was damaged a few weeks ago and has been repaired, I will forward photographs to the communication officer.

GP braking into caves can severely jeopardise access agreements with land owners.

#### 13.4 Communication with university clubs

JC The contact emails for the EUSS was been sent to the president from several years ago.

DC The general mailing list uses BCA's mailing list. It is difficult to administer when a club wants CSCC to use a different email address from their BCA one.

LW Another issue is the officer list is subscribed and unsubscribed to by the officer. When an officer unsubscribes from the mailing list we do not know who the new officer is.



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### 14 Forthcoming events

Saturday 20 November JRat Awards, Hunters

### 15 CSCC Significant dates

Note. This is a list of important dates around the current CSCC year, which runs AGM to AGM. The dates of the AGM, notifications and deadlines are defined in the constitution, this is a reminder. Dates of meetings are initially decided at the AGM however they can be changed. Please consult the website diary.

Monday	6 Sept 2021	19:00	GM	Zoom
Friday	19 Nov 2021	19:00	GM	Zoom
Tuesday	1 Feb 2022	23:59	Notification to members of upcoming AGM <u>This is the notification</u>	
Monday	14 Feb 2022	19:00	GM	Zoom
Tuesday	15 March 2022	23:59	Deadline for AGM nominations	
Friday	18 March 2022	19:00	Deadline for AGM constitutional amendments	
Friday	1 April 2022	23:59	Notification to members of AGM nominations	
Friday	13 May 2022	19:00	AGM	Zoom

Meeting duration 1:48

### Corrections

AA	email Wed, 22 Dec 2021, 19:38	Corrections applied, CSCC approved anchors are all P hangers.
DC	email Mon, 14 Feb 2022, 18:50	Corrections applied
PB	Wealden CMS, spelling corrected	