



COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS

A constituent member of the British Caving Association
Minutes of the Open Meeting held on Saturday 15th December 2007

Present		Apologies for Absence	
Alan Gray	Chairman	Linda Wilson	UBSS
Carmen Smith	Secretary	Graham Mullen	UBSS
Chris Whale	Treasurer	Graham Price	CSS/WCC
Les Williams	C & A Officer	Rob Norcross	Moles CC
Alan Butcher	Training Officer	Steve King	BCA Rep
Andrew Atkinson	Equipment/Bolting Officer		
David Cooke	Webmaster		
Alan Dempster	Avon Scouts rep		
Mike Richardson	MCG rep		
Aubrey Newport	WCC rep		
Chris Binding	SCG rep		

Minutes Of the Previous Meetings

There were no comments on the minutes of the previous meeting, therefore they were agreed to be a true and accurate record.

Actions From the previous Meetings	Status	Officer
2006 accounts to be finalized and signed off	Completed	C.W (see treasurers report)
Invoice retailers for handbooks		
Application to BCA for funding		
Reduce expenses by emailing agendas/minutes to reps	Completed	C.S
To Pay Cuckoo Cleaves Landowner for Fencing	Completed	L.W C.W
To Assess September rift in Manor Farm for Bolting Suitability	Completed	C.B
To Put forward 2 proposals to the BCA (placing of bolts by competent persons and separating the roles of installer/ assessor)	Completed	S.K

Chairman's Report

The chairman had nothing to report

Secretary's Report

Publications Received	Membership Issues	Correspondence
BCA Budget report		
DCA Agendas and circular		Change of MCG rep.
HSE "Guidance from the Licensing Authority the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations 2004". The Activities Centre's (Young Persons Safety) Act 1995 Guidance on the Regulations L77 Second edition ISBN 978 07176 6243 2 available from HSE Books. www.hsebooks.co.uk .	No requests for CSCC membership	Updating CSCC webpage requests. (See Webmasters Report)
Guidance for caving and Mining Activities on National Trust Land Comments submitted to NT by CSCC C&A Officer.		Bolting Requests update. (See Equipment/bolting officers report)
BCA Minutes 13 th Oct 2007		

Treasurers Report

Status

The Current Account stands at £409.32	As of 17.12.07
The main Account holds £3740.31	As of 17.12.07
Funding requests to BCA for 2006 bolting projects.	Submitted
Invoices sent to retailers for CSCC handbooks and monies collected.	Completed

Conservation and Access Officers Report	Status
Funding requests for the work on Jacks Workings gate, Box mines. Currently stands at £96.65 with further costs of approx £50 envisaged	Accepted
Funding request to replenish low stocks of conservation tape.	C.B to sort. Accepted
Funding request for restoration expenses for Compton Martin Ochre Mine £25.25	Accepted
A pre warning that the costs of securing the entrance to the now found cave of Loxton is likely to be a considerable project requiring a large amount of backing from the BCA.	L.W to bring costing proposal to next meeting
Currently there is only 1 spare CSCC key, more to be purchased.	Accepted

Equipment/Bolting Officers Report	Status	Action
Recommendation made to replace the “loose” top bolt on Swildons 20. Although bolt has been inspected and deemed as safe to use, recommendations were made to replace this bolt to reduce the amount of reports coming into to CSCC, questioning its condition.	Accepted	A.A now has the anchor pullers that will make this job easier
The bolts in Hunters Hole have all been inspected and passed as fit for use. A few, with small cracks in the resin have been earmarked for replacement at some point in the future, with no urgency	Accepted	
It was suggested that Black Hole series in Swildons, may benefit from being P bolted. It was reported that there is one M8 in good working order, 1 slightly dubious and 1 superb natural in place.	Accepted	A.A to Action
Following inspection in Manor Farm, September Rift, by C.B 3 p bolts will be placed.	Accepted	CB/AA? to Action
Following the popularity of the new Mendip through trip (Rods Pot to Bath Swallet) bolts are to be placed at the top of Purple pot. A.A has already assessed for suitability.	Accepted	AA to Action
The current bolt at the top of shower pot in Bath Swallet is substantial but not part of the insured bolt scheme on Mendip. It currently hangs in the perfect position for rigging this trip but rock space for a p-hanger is minimal. Further investigation required	Accepted	A.A to Assess
Star Shaft bolts still waiting for inclusion into the BCA insurance scheme		A.A Aware

Training Officers Report
Nothing to report

Webmasters Report	Action
It was reported that the Agenda for this meeting had not appeared on the CSCC website.	C.S & D.C to communicate better ☺

BCA Officers Report	Action
The issue of clearer guidance for CSCC members on child protection matters was raised. The BCA are producing a draft amendment to the policy which hopes to deal with many of the issues raised. The BCA are considering producing a FAQ to the policy which it is hoped will deal with many of the issues raised Could CSCC members with an FAQ type question please forward to S.K for inclusion.	CSCC members to email S.K with any FAQ requests regarding this policy. CS to make members aware by email.
BCA subscription rates increased by £1 taking the 2008 subscription for cavers from £15 to £16. The rate remains fixed for “armchair”cavers at £5	
At the October meeting of council, the BCA E&T Officer delivered a clear dispassionate, illustrated presentation of anchor placements and testing with	

particular reference to the Rhino Rift incident. It was concluded that there was need for better practice all round. No underground testing of eco hangers is currently sanctioned in the U.K.

The BCA Youth and development officer requested that clubs link the TRYcaving website from their own websites to increase visibility on search engines.

D.C to update CSCC web page. C.S to email CSCC clubs.

The concern that Training committee meetings were held at short notice, midweek and with little opportunity to study the agenda prior to meeting was reported back to the BCA. It was found that most other members of that committee found the midweek timing good, however if the minutes/agendas are not received in good time, in the future, please report this, so it can be addressed at the next BCA meeting

A.B to keep S.K informed of any problems

Post meeting Note

4 sets of experiments (of axial, shear and 100kg dynamic types) on Eco-anchor test placements in the Uk and France are currently underway. Also being tested is the new “singing rock” anchor and a Chinese import.

Any Other Business

Action

A.N (One of the Bath Swallet diggers) wished to bring to the attention of CSCC clubs that great care must be taken when freeclimbing out of Shower Pot in Bath Swallet. The diggers placed a bolt at the top of the pitch so it could be climbed by ladder. The reasons being, the undercut walls of the Pot are very loose and unstable. There was concern that the wrong foot in the wrong place may create a large collapse.
CSCC to report to ask members to currently take care if free climbing this pitch and would support the use of pre –rigging ladder in preference to free climbing it.

Pitch needs to be assessed to see if any improvements could be made to prevent collapse. Meanwhile advice to CSCC clubs to take care and preferably pre rig this pitch before undertaking the through trip to be emailed out with minutes.

Mendip 2008.

L.W reports due to the village Hall booking limitations, the date has been set for June 6th 7th 8th 2008.

Hopes to include regional training meeting, cavers challenge (assault course or completion), BBQ, Stomp, SRT training, Bolting training.

LW asked for funding for a domain name, the committee unanimously looked at the floor, shuffled their feet a bit and decided links from websites would be better.

AB to contact MRO with regards to running the stomp and BBQ??

AB to organise training events (SRT tower)
CS to inform CSCC members for involvement in running a cavers Challenge.

Forthcoming Events

19th April Caving Technical Symposium to be held in at the Hunters Lodge.

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

Dates of next meeting

9th February 2008 Hunters Lodge 10.30 am

17th May 2008 Hunters Lodge 10.30 am (Annual General Meeting)