



Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the British Caving Association
www.csc.org.uk

General Meeting 28.07.12 Hunters Lodge Inn, Priddy

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Graham Price (Chair/Cerberus Rep) GP	Aubrey Newport (WCC) AN
Hayley Clark (Secretary/MCG Rep) HC	Alan Gray (ACG Rep) AG
David G Cooke (Webmaster/ ChCC Rep) DGC	Les Williams (C&A Officer) LW
Alan Dempster (Avon Scouts Rep) AD	Mark Williams (BCA Officer) MW
Faye Litherland (Equipment Officer/BEC Rep) FL	Stuart Gardiner (BEC) SG
Alan Butcher (SMCC Rep)	
James Skelly (Shropshire Scouts Caving Team)	

Meeting started at 10.11 am.

1) Minutes of the previous meeting (12.05.12)

Amendments to 4.2, 6.1, 7.1 and 6.4

Proposed FL seconded AD accepted as amended nem com

2) Actions from previous meeting: -

30/07/11

7.6 Update to CSCC handbook LW and DGC **Ongoing**

14 FL to write promotional text for CSCC **Ongoing**

05/11/11

7.4 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**

12/05/12

6.3 DC to look into funding for the MCRA website **Ongoing**

6.4 , DC to look into what expenses can be claimed for from BCA **Ongoing**

6.7 DC to look into claiming for mileage for the Officers to go to CSCC meetings and to create spreadsheet to record mileage. **Ongoing**

7.1 LW to put note on website saying Loxton Cavern is closed until work can be done to secure entrance **Ongoing**

8.1 DI has been looking into a dry stone walling training day (take under item 4)

8.2 Photography course for October (take under item 8)

15.2. Hidden Earth and CSCC stand. **Ongoing**

15.3 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**

3) Other Matters arising from the previous meeting

None

4) Chairman's Report



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4.1 People have had difficulty getting access to Heale Farm Cave as have been asked for a risk assessment to be produced before the trip. GP to speak to landowners.

4.2 GP has been looking into plastic pipes for Loxton Cavern. Had been proposed to use 900mm diameter pipes but these will require work to be done around the top of the shaft. 750mm diameter pipes have been used in Derbyshire and GP had measured r Cuckoo Cleeves which were 675mm. GP been in contact with manufacturers regarding possible donation and his enquiry has now been passed on to the right department, GP to report back when he has any news

4.3 GP has spoken to DI and he has resigned as Training Officer. Need to find someone willing to take on the role. May be possible for two people to share role, one to do training and one to attend Training Committee meetings. Two possible candidates were suggested from the floor. In the meantime, HC to keep eye on Training Committee minutes and raise anything that needs attention

4.4 Dry stone walling event has been organised for 13/14 October 2012, there are places for 12 people for Saturday and 12 people for Sunday. Not a training event as such but more of a try your hand at event, will be from 10am -15.30 on both days, idea is one day for CSCC and one day for Mendip Society but depending on numbers/interest can be changed

4.5 AONB. Proposals were put forward at the last AONB meeting to set up a 'Mendip Hills Fund'. GP outlined the proposals and concerns that the Mendip Society had about how this was being dealt with procedurally. An article from the latest Mendip Society newsletter consisting of a report by the AONB Manager and the comments of the MS will be circulated with the minutes for information.

4.6 Ham Hole. GP had held discussions with the Agents acting for the landowners and agreement had been reached that a risk assessment would not be necessary. GP had notified the diggers and access can continue subject to the other requirements including insurance cover, compliance with national caving codes, parking and notifying tenant etc.

5) **Secretary's Report.**

5.1 Wind turbines on Mendip, letter sent round to all CSCC reps about proposals for wind turbines at various locations. The meeting agreed that this is an issue for individuals and any individuals wishing to comment can do so

5.2 HC received request from Old Mateys Caving Club to join CSCC, as they are already with BCA then its fine. HC to email LW to ask to send out CSCC key.
DONE

6) **Treasurer's Report.**

6. 1 Issued raised at BCA AGM regarding the lateness of requests for claims for refunding, there is a danger that BCA may refuse to pay for things if claims are put in too late. GP to contact DC to chase claims that need to be made. DC to ask for help if has any problems sorting claims.

7) **Conservation & Access Officer's Report**

7.1 Update on gates, Viaduct, Thrupe Lane and Priddy Green Sink are made and being galvanised. Compton Martin Ochre Mine and White Pit are still ongoing



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7.2 Rhino Rift is still stabilising, people still advised not to go below pitch 2 until further notice. However persons unknown have installed anchors in a dangerous location without consent, these have been removed.

7.3 There have been reports of spray painting in Brownes Folly

7.4 Hole at side of Priddy Green sink has been filled in again by AB however still needs looking at from the inside. LW to action

7.5 Box Mine gate has been repaired, CSCC yet to be notified of any costs incurred

7.6 Auction held in July for 9 Barrows and Sludge pit, whole farm went as one lot. GP/LW went to auction, spoke to auctioneer and agent for successful purchaser who was not present to ask that CSCC details be passed on to the new landowner. There have been discussions as to whether if access were to be allowed again whether the caves should be leader system or gated with CSCC locks/keys. The meeting expressed views that CSCC system works well and asked GP/LW to negotiate on behalf of all cavers to try to regain access to the two caves

8) Training Officer's Report

8.1 Photography training event was initially proposed for Saturday 13/10/12, however with the resignation of Darrell Instrell a new date needs to be organised. DI had expressed an interest in continuing to help organise this event HC to contact DI to confirm this.

09) Equipment Officer's Report.

9.1 Anchor placement training course has been arranged for weekend of 29-30 September. Trainer will be Mark Wright and will be held on Mendip, it will be a joint session with Cambrian and Devon.

9.2 Regarding the statements posted on CNCC's Website:

The BCA E&T Committee has not collapsed as stated by DCA & CNCC. The committee is still fully functioning and only CNCC have withdrawn their representative.

The IPTD was never accepted by 4 out of 5 regional councils as DCA and CNCC state. In fact Cambrian said that they would agree to the document accepting that it only applied to SRT pitches in Limestone. This is the same basis that CSCC were prepared to accept.

CNCC and DCA state that CSCC were not prepared to honour the agreement reached at the October 2011 E&T Meeting. This is not true. Our acceptance of the document was on the same basis as Cambrian's acceptance, which had already been accepted by DCA and CNCC. DCA and CNCC have decided that this acceptance is not sufficient for CSCC, even though the other 3 regional councils felt that it was a sensible position given the variety of situations faced when bolting.

Bolting will continue in all regions.



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9.3 Copyright of the BCA IPTD has been handed back to Bob Dearman and Les Sykes by Nick Williams. Bob Mayhew is currently in the process of writing a document which will act as an umbrella document with guiding principles, allowing regional specific procedures to be implemented.

9.4 The CSCC anchor placement scheme has been reactivated in the interim with the intention that this set of documents will form our local policy under the BCA document (subject to approval by CSCC member representatives). The CSCC documents are currently being redrafted to take into account the change of anchor.

10) BCA Rep's Report

10.1 Conservation and Access Officer Elsie Little raised that the Government if currently doing the definitive map of rights of way, we need to look at footpaths that run past cave entrances to make sure these are on the map. GP to find out more and circulate.

11) Webmaster's Report

11.1 DGC and FL to do notes for Officers to use website and update their own pages. Some Officers have said its to complicated at present

12) Regional Registry Officer's report

Nothing to report

13) Forthcoming Events.

Hidden Earth 21-23 September 2012
Anchor Placement Training 29-30 September 2012
Dry Stone Wall event 13-14 October 2012

14) AOB

Meeting Closed: 12:15