



Council of Southern Caving Clubs

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

General Meeting 01 February 2014 Hunters Lodge Inn, Priddy

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Graham Price (Chair/Cerberus Rep) GP	Mark Williams (BCA Officer) MW
Hayley Clark (Secretary/MCG Rep) HC	Geoff Dommett (BCG Rep) GD
Alan Dempster (Avon Scouts Rep) AD	Faye Litherland (Equipment Officer/BEC Rep)
Aubrey Newport (WCC Obs) AN	Dave Cundy (Treasurer)
David G Cooke (Webmaster/ ChCC Rep) DGC	
Alan Gray (ACG Rep) AG	
Les Williams (C&A Officer/WCC Rep) LW	

Meeting started at 10.11 am.

1) Minutes of the previous meeting (02/11/13)

All fine but added section 13.2 which was omitted previously Proposed GP seconded AG

2) Actions from previous meeting: -

- Update to CSCC handbook LW and DGC **ongoing.**
- LW to write promotional text for CSCC **ongoing**
- Situation in Rhino Rift **ongoing do not go below top of third pitch item to be dropped from minutes but all covers to keep eye on CSCC website for any updates on the situation**

3) Other Matters arising from the previous meeting

3.1 DIGFEST – need to ensure all clubs are aware of the date for this DGC to get poster out to all ASAP. FL did a talk at the Jrat digging awards evening in November as many people were there to start to get advertising out.

HC to add as main item to AGM Agenda

Unfortunately FL not present at this meeting but DGC to convey to her that we need regular updates on how things are progressing, a list of all available dig sites that are available for people to visit and a contact for each of these, a plan for the weekend including Friday night, Saturday day/evening and Sunday, is the Wessex Challenge going to be held over this weekend, the BEC won last time so should be organising it therefore we need to know ASAP if they are not going to so it can be organised by someone else. Any other events for the weekend, any talks, films to be shown etc MCRA website has a list of films that can be borrowed from Wells Museum.

4) Chairman's Report

4.1 Situation at Heale Farm Cave, the point of contact GP had has now changed jobs but has passed on recent communications to her successor with a recommendation for the access to be on a CSCC lock. Correspondence has been



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received from Andy Watson of MNRC regarding the historic access situation, this has been passed to GP

4.2 Mendip Rocks Framework. Following the recent consultation by the AONB Service GP (representing CSCC) and AG (representing MCRA) attended a full day meeting on the 25th January the objective of which was to look at ways to take the project forward. (A report on the meeting taken from the Mendip Society Spring 2014 Newsletter is attached for information). At this time no action is needed but a close eye needs to be kept on the situation

4.3 Loxton Cavern, pipe is now being ordered for work to be under taken in spring/summer. GP/LW to liaise about a gate to go over entrance once new pipes have been submitted

5) Secretary's Report.

5.1 Following HC decision not to continue as CSCC Secretary after the AGM in May 2014 word has been spread to try to find a replacement, currently one person has shown a tentative interest but the meeting again requests all officers/club reps to spread the word and let all club members know there is a vacancy

5.2 HC received a request to join CSCC from Gloucester Speleological Society. They are already a BCA member club so meeting happy to have them join. HC to let them know and LW to send them a CSCC key

6) Treasurer's Report.

6.1 None received

6.2 DGC stated he wished to stand as Treasurer at the AGM in May

6.3 DGC raised an issue with the 2012 accounts where agreed corrections had not been amended and a corrected version had not been issued. Treasurer to check

7) Conservation & Access Officer's Report

7.1 More CSCC keys and locks need to be ordered, GP to order 20

7.2 Gate at entrance to Thrupe Lane Swallet has been damaged by flooding, it may be possible to repair the gate but it may need replacing, cave is currently closed as the entrance is inaccessible. LW to monitor the situation and up-to-date CSCC website

7.3 The tenant landowner at Honeymead and Little Crapnell has passed away.. Cavers are requested to stay away from the caves for a while as a mark of respect and allow the family time to grieve. Future access to the sites as yet is unknown as this will depend on negotiations with future tenants. LW to keep an eye on the situation and update CSCC website when able to do so.

7.4 White Pit Gate is currently at fabricators for repair.

7.5 Works to Swindons Causeway are on hold as landowner does not want vehicles taking materials across his fields at present due to the wet ground. When the ground dries out landowner is happy to transport aggregate etc to entrance via his farm vehicles

7.6 Lock on Stocks Hill Shaft has seized, old lock cut off and new lock now in place



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7.7 5 Buddles now has a new lock

7.8 Compton Martin Ochre Mine gate is ongoing

7.9 Viaduct Sink new gate is ongoing

7.10 Lock on Axbridge Hill Cavern has jammed, AG and LW to go and have a look to try to unjam and/or replace lock

7.11 Reports received about a gate being fitted on entrance to Vallis Vale but no idea who has done so or how to get hold of a key. LW to investigate

8) Training Officer's Report

8.1 Position still vacant, volunteer to take on the role still required please contact GP or HC for any further information

9) Equipment Officer's Report.

9.1 Anchors have now been placed in Shatter Pot, Black Hole and the Bath-Rods through trip

10) BCA Rep's Report

10.1 Discussions took place over the proposed landowners access leaflet, the meeting had been divided over whether it was a good or bad thing and whether it should or should not be given to landowners directly, some thoughts were should only be used via Regional Bodies. When revisions are made to the current document, these must be recirculated for further consultation with regional councils. The CSCC position against the production of any formal leaflet for distribution to landowners had not been put to BCA although DGC said there would still be opportunity to do this. The CSCC believes that the information should be only made available internally to assist regional C&A Officers and others when carrying out access negotiations with landowners

10.2 BCA wish to restructure and simplify membership, to have 1 class of individual membership only. They want email addresses from members so correspondence can all be done electronically

10.3 Situation regarding commercial permits from CNCC ongoing and CSCC remain concerned over the situation and precedent it could set

11) Webmaster's Report

11.1 Mailing list that is on the CSCC website is underused and needs to be resurrected to become regular form of communication, it needs to be used and promoted

11.2 HC to forward to webmaster an up-to-date list of member clubs with contact emails so the website can be updated. HC said she would after receiving the latest membership list at the end of March

12) Regional Registry Officer's report

12.1 Nothing to report

13) AOB



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13.1 Mendip Underground have already sold 780 copies, the next book being worked on is a MENDIP Mining Book, currently thoughts are it will be 2 volumes and A4 size

13.2 MCRA was granted charity status in December 2013

14) Dates for the diary

June 6-8 2014 Digfest Mendip

June 13-15 2014 BCA/BCRA Party weekend

June 21 2014 Wells Big Day Out at the Blue School

June 27 2014 Forest of Dean Cave symposium

DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Saturday 10 May 2014