



# Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the British Caving Association

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

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Approved at meeting 16/9/17

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### 1 Attendance

#### Voting Attendees

Aubrey Newport	White Rabbit	AN	Webmaster
Les Williams	WCC	LW	C&A Officer
Keith Batten	SMCC	KB	
Dave King	MNRC	DK	
Alan Gray	ACG	AG	Regional Registry Officer
Graham Mullan	UBSS	GM	
Hannah Bennett	BEC	HB	
Alan Dempster	Avon Scouts	AD	
Dave Cooke	Cheddar	DC	Treasurer

#### Non Voting

Alan Butcher	SMCC	AB	Chairman
Frank Tully	WCC	FT	Secretary
Ray Deasy	MNRC	RD	

### 2 Apologies for Absence

Chris Binding	SPCC/ACI	CB	Training officer
Idris Williams	Shropshire Scouts Caving Team		
Geoff Dommett	Buckfastleigh CG	GD	
Faye Litherland	Equipment Officer	FL	
Barry Wilkinson	WCC/White Rabbit	BW	
Graham Price	Cerberus	GP	

### 3 Approval of minutes from general meeting 18th Feb 2017

Minutes approved with minor amendments.

Proposed AB, Seconded LW, Passed Unanimous

### 4 Actions from previous minutes

None

### 5 Other matters arising from previous minutes

None

### 6 Chairman's report

**Alan Butcher**

This is the Annual General meeting of the CSCC, any decisions made at an in-quorate meeting will have to be accepted at a later quorate meeting.

CSCC currently has 42 members, we therefore need 11 to be quorate, subject to more members turning up we will not be approving any constitutional changes at this AGM.

CSCC does not want to be continually having EGMs or AGMs every meeting such that on the off chance that we may be quorate and can therefore pass the changes to the constitution.



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The discussion and vote regarding the constitutional changes will be deferred to the next AGM in 2018.

### 7 Honorary secretary's report Frank Tully

Nothing to report

### 8 Conservation & access officer's report Les Williams

CSCC have been offered free of charge a number of 1.2m diameter tubes lids and manholes. The meeting approved up to £100 for transport, proposed AB seconded LW, passed unanimous. LW is in discussions with Sir Charles Hob House regarding Browns Folly Mine. It appears his father sold the land on the Somerset side of the Somerset-Wiltshire boundary to Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT), and retains the land on the Wiltshire side which contains two of the entrances to the mine. Sir Charles Hob-House is getting complaints from Restore regarding people accessing their area of the mine from Browns Folly.

The proposed solution is to make the muddy hole into a short pitch down some vertical concrete rings. This will hopefully appease Natural England the bat experts and the more responsible explorers who have the technical expertise to negotiate a vertical pitch.

CSCC offer our whole hearted support to this project as access is intended to be maintained.

CSCC offers assistance with labor and our expertise when required.

CSCC approves travel expenses which LW has incurred whilst organising this.

#### Report by Graham Price - Assistant C&A Officer

Ubley Warren - 3 working trips have taken place and work is ongoing. The Nettle entrance can be sorted with the expenditure of approximately £600.

CSCC Locks – The supply of replacement Papiaz locks is still problematic following the company being taken over by ABUS, Costs of replacement locks were presented to the last meeting.

Loxton cavern – Work is progressing but entrance is still unstable.

Digging guidelines are in the process of being written

Heal Farm Cave – Access will soon be available online at [www.healfarmcave.cave.org.uk](http://www.healfarmcave.cave.org.uk), the farmer has asked for some further works at the entrance which have been arranged.

**Nettle** - The cost of the Nettle gate is believed to have been based on previous gates.

Subject to BCA approval of the money and approval of the design by LW the meeting is happy with this expenditure. Proposed AB Seconded LW passed unanimous

**CSCC Locks** - We have 5 locks in stock and we expect these to last at least a year. So we are not yet in a rush. We have approximately 20 gates with CSCC Locks. We do not want to replace the if we don't have to. We need to look further at getting replacement locks with stainless shackles and operating using the current CSCC key.

**Loxton Cavern** – The parish council clerk has requested that we attend the parish council meeting to discuss the caves on the parishes land. We have just missed the meeting which was held on the 11 May.

### 8.1 Report on caves

#### Box Quarries

No further news,



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### **Viaduct Sink**

Gate is awaiting fitting, ongoing

### **Swildons**

Repair of causeway leading to blockhouse, ongoing

### **Swildons Stile**

Repair of stone stile on way to Swildons, awaiting dry weather, ongoing

### **Hunters lodge inn sink**

New gate is waiting to be fabricated. The November 2016 meeting allocated £600 for the materials for a new gate.

## **9 Training officer's report**

**Chris Binding**

CSCC Training Officer's Report to AGM Saturday 20th May 2017

A relatively busy year: SRT training was provided to MNRC during June 2016 with the financial support of the BCA Recreational Caving Training Grant fund, also a weekend of Primer training for newer members of the WCMS in September 2016, and a similar (full day) of training in February 2017, the first two being supported financially by the BCA RCTG fund. Reports on all three events were written, with the WCMS ones featuring on the Darkness Below website: feedback from the events was positive and similar days can be provided to clubs interested in organising coaching for their members. There was some confusion regarding the status of the RCTG fund, largely as a result of restructuring of the BCA Training Committee, but all is now back up and running and things can continue. BCA's May Newsletter, No.29, mentions that the fund could have been taken up by more clubs during the last year, as there was an ample balance available. Clubs that wish to benefit from this source of coaching can do so by visiting the BCA website and following the link to Services/Training/Recreational Caver Grant and clicking on the application form therein.

Links to WCMS Darkness Below articles:

<http://darknessbelow.co.uk/recreational-caver-training-does-it-work/>

<http://darknessbelow.co.uk/a-big-thumbs-up-for-the-bca-recreational-training-grant/>

With thanks to the Webex software, and Nick Williams for hosting the meetings, it has been possible to attend several Training Committee meetings during the year; they are usually short (the last was one hour long). Recent business has included drawing up a list of the desired qualities and experience that would be ideal for a new BCA Training Officer to head up the Training Committee; the feedback from the present functioning Training Committee has been supportive and unanimous and we are awaiting BCA to give the go ahead to move forward; presently the BCA Training Committee is comprised by representatives from Cambrian, CSCC, DCA, and CNCC (vacant at moment, but due to be filled imminently), with NW hosting for the time being. With the restructuring of the BCA Training role, now slimmed down to solely dealing with club/recreational caving provision, it is far simpler and more efficient to deal with future plans.

DCA is providing a Training the Trainers event soon and I am happy to emulate this with a tailored version for our region, and invite club Training Officers to contact me for further details.

I am happy to stand again as Training Officer for the CSCC. Chris Binding

## **10 Equipment officer's report**

**Faye Litherland**

Report from Faye Litherland

This year she has mostly been taken up with discussions regarding the removability of otherwise of different types of anchor. For conservation reasons we have decided not to place anchors we do not know how to remove. Work is ongoing to resolve this.



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Unfortunately I will not be at the meeting as I still thought it was the 20th and I am away on a course. As you know, I am standing down this year. Andrew Atkinson has expressed interest and I feel is the natural choice for the role. Therefore, I believe he is going to propose himself and I will second, or I am happy to propose if required. Whichever way, he has my full support and endorsement and has been a stalwart help to me during my stint as equipment officer.

Yours, Faye

The meeting thanks Fay for her hard work as equipment officer over the previous years.

### Report from Andrew Atkinson

Yes I'm willing to do the job so will propose or second myself. I also thought it was the 20th so committed else where this weekend, please accept my apologies.

I feel suitably qualified as the main role is the anchors, which I have been placing for goodness knows how many years! In the last few years I have been in constantly helping with the search for a suitable anchor, which is the only thing stopping me finishing the job list agreed by CSCC reserving the few suitable anchors we had for replacement jobs like Swildons 20 last year. Currently I'm helping the BCA by doing some tests in Fairy quarry.

Andrew Atkinson

## 11 **BCA rep report**

AB attended the last 7.5h long BCA meeting.

The main contentious topic was the software which BCA might buy to run the training schemes in the future. The proposed software will cost £5000 and £4000 per year, this will increase the efficiency of the professional caver training awards and is intended to be self-funding. The BCA meeting has decided that a detailed specification of the software and it required functionality is required before any official order is placed.

CSCC has been led to believe that the current training committee has been running at a loss for the last couple of years and would need to raise its income to cover this new software.

Approximately 200 professional cavers are trained or re-trained every year.

CSCC believes that there is a benefit with the professional caver training committee being close to the BCA and therefore subsidised by BCA because it gives BCA oversight and a say in the direction of any decisions.

This meeting endorses AB to represent CSCCs views on this matter proposed LW Seconded GM passed without objection

There a number of proposals being presented to the BCA AGM the motions of consequence require a ballot of members, if a ballot of members takes place a number of additional constitutional change motions will be included in the meeting. These additional constitutional change motions are considered housekeeping and will not be discussed if a ballot is not taking place.

- Clause 4.6 CSCC mandate is that the current constitutional clause should stay as it is, however if change is going to happen we should support option A
- CSCC believes that the BCA constitution already allows campaigning if the members want it. The decision to campaign should be taken at an AGM or EGM and not national council.
- Clause 5.1b No opinion
- Clause 6.1 No opinion
- Election of president, Mandate to elect president every year.
- Proxy Voting, CSCC is against proxy voting. Proposed AB Seconded GM Passed Unanimous
- 9.1 CSCC are happy for the word postal to be removed



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- 9.2 Postal ballots and online ballots  
The wording of the proposal is confusing.  
CSCC believes that all members must be able to vote, we cannot agree with a system which disfranchises many of the members. We need a better proposal with details of required invigilation. The proposal needs detail of how online ballots will maintain independence; any ballot therefore cannot be run on BCA servers.  
Mandate to vote against changing section 9.2 of the constitution.

CSCC would like to hear a report from BCA regarding conservation, access and landowner relations, specifically regarding what work has been performed and results.

### 12 Honorary treasurer's report

**Dave Cooke**

Accounts have not been finalised for presentation to this meeting.

We have submitted our 2016 claim.

Expenses for Loxton Cavern have been submitted to CSCC and will be submitted to BCA next year

Treasurer is still awaiting an invoice from Dave Speed.

Bank mandate is in progress,

### 13 Webmasters report

**Aubrey Newport**

Apologies for not updating the meeting date on the website.

The equipment area of the website needs updating.

The CSCC officers mailing list is for discussions, The CSCC members list is an announce list and not for discussions.

The meeting decided that the CSCC membership list should be moderated and only the committee should be able to post freely to this list.

### 14 Regional registry officer's report

**Alan Gray**

Nothing to report

### 15 Changes to CSCC Constitution

This meeting is not quorate, the proposals for change of the current constitution will be carried forward to the next AGM in 2018

### 16 Election of officers

Position	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded	Passed/Failed
Chairman	Alan Butcher	LW	GM	No dissent
Honorary secretary	Frank Tully	LW	AG	No dissent
Honorary treasurer	Dave Cooke	AB	GM	No dissent
Conservation & Access	Les Williams	AG	CM	No dissent
Training Officer	Chris Binding	AN	LW	No dissent
Equipment Officer	Andrew Atkinson	GM	LW	No dissent
BCA Rep				
Webmaster	Dave Cooke	LW	GM	No dissent
Regional Registry officer	Alan Grey	AN	GM	No dissent
Scrutineer of accounts	Aubrey Newport	HB	AD	No dissent



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### **17 Forthcoming events**

11<sup>th</sup> June BCA AGM

Hidden Earth - Churchill 29<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017

### **18 Date of next meetings:**

Saturday 16th September 2017 (GM) 10:00 Hunters

Saturday 25th November 2017 (GM) 10:00 Hunters

Saturday 17th February 2018 (GM) 10:00 Hunters

Saturday 19th May 2018 (AGM) 10:00 Hunters

### **19 Any other business**

Meeting duration 2h5m