



COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS

A constituent member of the National Caving Association

Minutes of the meeting of the CSCC held on Saturday 7th February 2004 at the Hunters Lodge, Priddy

1. ATTENDANCE

- a) Andrew Atkinson (UBSS), Chris Binding (CHCC, CSCC Secretary), Alan Butcher (SMCC), Dave Cooke (WCC, CSCC NCA Rep), Alan Dempster (Avon Scouts), John Dobson (ACG), Tim Fell (SBSS Secretary), John Flanagan (ISG/WAYA), Alan Gray (ACG, CSCC Chairman), Lee Hawkswell (MCG), Steve King (SBSS Obs.), Graham Mullan (UBSS), Graham Price (CSS Rep.), Jonathan Roberts (MCG, CSCC Treasurer), Andy Sparrow (CHCC, CSCC Training), Linda Wilson (UBSS Obs.).
- b) Apologies: Doug Harris, Mick Hawkins, Martin Grass, Chris Whale, Les Williams.

2. ALTERATIONS TO MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND TOPICS ARISING.

- a) 2.4. Doug Harris has contacted the Coles brothers who control access to Bleadon Cavern and due to the insurance situation and also the theft of their trailer last year they have decided that the cave must remain closed. However Doug has spoken to Chris Richards who has no objection to Doug becoming a leader for Bleadon Cavern when it reopens.
- b) 2.5. Bolting - following discussions between Alan Gray and Les Williams a summary sheet has been produced listing all P-bolts that have been installed on Mendip along with their installation, test and test-by dates. All P-bolts are presently within their test date however some of the bolts in Swildons require testing by 10th March this year. The list of P-bolts and their locations is available on request. Chris Binding has not received any details from clubs/organisations about bolting projects. Mick Norton and Andy Sparrow are the only names on the list for training once Andrew Atkinson has returned.

3. OFFICER REPORTS

3.1. CHAIRMAN

- a) A vote of thanks should be given for the tremendous amount of work that has been put in by both Nick and Bob in negotiating the insurance. Caving insurance is now available and all CSCC caves are reopen.

3.2. SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a) None presented.

3.3. TREASURER'S REPORT

- a) The Current account stands at £290.51 less £100 paid to BCA for CSCC insurance cover agreed today (prop: GP, 2nd: GM) leaving £190.51. Reserve account holds £3,550.31.

3.4. EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

- a) None presented.

3.5. TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

- a) At the last meeting Andy Sparrow highlighted the perceived decline of caving for consideration. A discussion resulted in the following suggestions: Promote caving, appoint public relations/communications person, nurture potential cavers via Scouts and other organisations, support and promote student bodies. Since CSCC is unable to create a policy without consultation of member clubs/organisations this is a topic which requires general support first. The topic is to be put on the agenda for the next meeting so that clubs can consult their members beforehand. Dave Cooke is to pursue the suggestion of there being a media spokesperson.

3.6. CONSERVATION AND ACCESS

- a) Stainsby's Shaft at Charterhouse has been gated by SCC but has the CSCC lock on it.
- b) An application for financial assistance towards piping Holly Bush Shaft in Shipham was received from Mark Ireland along with a quote for work required totalling £995.94. Mark is to be asked for a site visit to determine the worthiness of the project. NAMHO were suggested as being an alternative source of funding.

3.7. NCA REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

- a) The result of the ballot on the BCA Constitution was 44 votes in favour to 3 against (94%). Duly the British Caving Association (BCA) was officially brought into being on 31st December 2003. Because the National Caving Association (NCA) and BCA are running in parallel for this year, it is proposed that club members of NCA will automatically be members of BCA for no extra fee, as will British Cave Research Association (BCRA) club members, in recognition of the support that both NCA and BCRA are offering to BCA. The BCA inaugural special general meeting will be on 20th March 2004.
 - b) After much effort a new national insurance scheme came into being on 1st January and is being run by the BCA. Thanks should go to Nick Williams (BCRA Chairman) and others, who succeeded against the odds. Information about the scheme and application forms are available on the BCA website at www.british-caving.org.uk. Broadly speaking the cover is the same as the previous scheme but costs more and has a larger excess. Hopefully people will find it affordable because it is the only sensible scheme available to most clubs. The scheme is run by volunteer cavers for cavers. It is there to protect access to caves, club officers and individuals. Without it we will return to the chaos at the end of last year. So it is vital that the scheme succeeds and for it to succeed it needs as many members as possible. So by joining it you are helping the caving community as well as yourself.
 - c) The idea of developing training materials/documentation for recreational caving was floated. The NCA Training Committee could do more for recreational caving, but it is realised that there are risks here, with a possible slide into certification. The National Council felt that discussion was needed at regional level to identify training needs and support requirements. The NCA Equipment Officer has resigned. The NCA/BCA also needs a Secretary and an Editor for SpeleoScene. Please contact the NCA Chairman if you are interested.
 - d) A response to HSE's Working at Heights Directive (Double Rope Technique) has been submitted as part of the consultation process. The main thrust of the argument is that adventure activities are already well regulated and should not be covered by this directive since the natural environment is significantly different from the working environment.
 - e) The BCA has made a commitment to achieving Equality of Opportunity in all aspects of its operation. As a consequence you are being invited to fill in an Equity form. The form is voluntary but if filled in will help applications to Sport England and Sport UK for grant, some of which works its way into Conservation & Access work and the Ghar Parau Foundation.
4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:
- a) The CSCC website hosting company has gone bust. The site will be re-established by the end of this week.
 - b) DCUC (Devon & Cornwall) Cavers Fair is second weekend in June.
5. CONFIRMATION OF THE DATE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
- a) Saturday 8th May 2004

All meetings convene in the back room of the Hunters Lodge, Priddy, for a 10:30am start. Please arrive early to avoid disturbing the meeting once it has begun; thank you.