

COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS



A constituent member of the British Caving Association

Minutes of the Open Meeting held on Saturday 15th September 2007

1. ATTENDANCE (5, 3 eligible to vote)

Alan Gray (CSCC Chairman, ACG), Carmen Haskell (CSCC Secretary), Dave Cooke (CSCC Webmaster, Wessex CC), Alan Dempster (Avon Scouts, Les Williams (CSCC C&A Officer)

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (8)

Graham Mullan (UBSS), Linda Wilson (UBSS), Chris Whale (CSCC Treasurer) Chris Binding (SCG) Alan Butcher (CSCC Training) Steven King (CSCC BCA Rep) Andrew Atkinson (CSCC Bolting/Equipment Officer), Graham Price (Cerberus SS)

3. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

As of July 2007, 30 clubs are registered with CSCC.
No new applications for membership had been received.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate record .

5. ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Item 9.1 - CW to have the CSCC 2006 Accounts signed off *Ongoing.*

Item 11 - BCA training meeting set midweek again. CSCC to repeat the matter to the BCA that it is unreasonable to expect amateur volunteers to take time of midweek, especially given only 4 days notice!! *Ongoing*

Item 12 – The DCA supported the CSCCs opposition to the proposals within the BCA equipment & techniques committee on Anchor Placement that require accreditation of amateur cavers by professional. *ongoing*

Item 13.4 - AA to look into insurance cover for the eco anchors at star shaft. LW mentioned this should be an easy issue to resolve as eco anchors were originally designed for use in concrete and were only subsequently tested by BCA for their use in Limestone..

Ongoing

Item 15 - CSCC to raise the need for clearer guidance on the POCA for clubs at BCA national council. DC reported that the BCA has a policy but it is not streamlined to CSCC member club use. Many CSCC clubs are having EGM's to raise this point but do not necessarily have the level of understanding required at a legal level and therefore CSCC members are requesting that BCA legal/insurance reps draw out a new policy streamlined for Club use. *Ongoing.*

Item 16 - DC addressing the issue of multiple RCC affiliations with the BCA national council. *Ongoing.*

Item 17 - Circulation of CSCC officers details to club reps/webmaster to update website/redirest email addresses *Completed*

6. OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

No Other Matters

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman did not have anything to report.

8. HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

8.1 - Publications received

BCA 24th march 2007 minutes

DCA Circular 2007/3

Minutes DCA meeting 23rd june 2007

8.2 – Correspondence

Change of Rep for Frome Caving Club

Request for bolting September rift

8.3 – Membership Issues

Action CS to try to reduce the amount of minutes to be physically printed and mailed and increase the amount to be emailed to members, at members discretion. BCA membership secretary has been contacted for all members updated emails...

9. HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reports the CSCC now has online Banking.(CW and CS to hold the details.)

The current account holds £374.32

The reserve account holds £3716.62

The 2006 accounts are almost finalised.

DC thought CW may be in a better position to send out invoices for supplied handbooks

Action To finalize accounts.

Invoice for handbooks.

Application to BCA for funding.

10. CONSERVATION & ACCESS OFFICER'S REPORT

10.1 - LW received info from a local land owner (of the Big Green Gathering Site) that 2 holes approx 300m apart, had opened up on his land. One has been descended and is a 20ft shaft leading to a narrow squeeze. Both need further investigation and if anything is forthcoming, may need to be part of a gating/capping project subject to landowner approval in the future.

10.2 – The Landowner of Cuckoo Cleeves has requested funding for fencing to be put around the perimeter of the land to comply with his neighbouring landowners wishes and to keep cattle away from the entrance. £540 was the best quote received to fence off a large area.

The CSCC voted unanimously that this was a very good price and felt it was only right to support the landowner in his claim, as the purchase of this cave has secured access for all cavers for the foreseeable future. The walling project around Cuckoo still needs to be completed. **Post meeting note** The fence has now been completed [Pics. on Ukcaving forum](#)

10.3 The now found Cave of Loxton. LW reported this was going to be a very big project that would require additional funding hopefully from the BCA. As such a proper plan needs to be drawn up. This will take some time but it is hoped that work may begin in the next financial year.

10.4 A big thanks goes out to all those involved in the ongoing Compton Martin Ochre Mine renovation project. This is largely being spearheaded by Chris Davis and his Darkplaces “associates” with regular invites to attend, and updates appearing on the main Caving Forums. A piece about the project is also appearing in next months “Descent”

Action To pay Cuckoo Cleeves land owner for fencing project

11. TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Training Officer reported that once again the last BCA Training committee was midweek making it very difficult for volunteer amateur cavers to attend due to work commitments. He also suggested that the 4 days notice given and receiving the agenda only 2 days prior to the meeting wasn't ideal.

12. EQUIPMENT/ BOLTING COORDINATOR'S OFFICER'S REPORT

AA, CS and AG have received further correspondence to have the 2nd pitch in Manor farm (September rift with the scaffold pole) looked at with a view to making it part off the Mendip P bolting project.

Action AA to assess pitch for suitability as time allows.

13. WEBMASTERS REPORT

The Webmaster had nothing to report.

14. ASSISTANCE TO UNIVERSITY CLUBS

Nothing to report, no requests outstanding.

15. BCA MATTERS

Nothing to report

16. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Hidden Earth 2007, September 21st-23rd 2007 - <http://hidden-earth.org.uk/>

Post meeting note. Very well attended this year

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Eco Hangers – Assessing competence of installers

The DCA drafted a proposal to the BCA in support of the CSCC on this matter that stated

“The DCA believes that decisions on the placement of Eco hangers should be taken by a consensus of a group of cavers having different areas of relevant expertise and experience; whose competence is recognised by the regional council; and who personally inspect the suggested placement area”

Also

“DCA considers that it is inappropriate for such varying areas of expertise to be assessed by CIC's”

Action CSCC to inform the BCA that the current BCA scheme which operates on the basis that bolts are placed by 2 competent persons with recognised experience in rigging and supported by the RCC, be supported and continued.

Competent Installers/Maintenance of Bolts on Mendip

It was suggested that the role of trained installer / assessor in maintenance of the bolts, become separate rolls.

In the Mendips it is becoming increasingly difficult for trained installers to place the required amount of bolts on an annual basis in order to stay “Qualified”.

Action The CSCC would like to put forward a proposal to the BCA E&T committee that the roles are therefore separated.

Mendip 2008 Cavers Fair

It was suggested that it may be a good time to organise another Mendip caver's event aiming for sometime in June 2008. LW to look into the availability of the Priddy Village hall in June before continuing further.

18. DATES OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS. Hunters Lodge, Priddy 15th Dec 2007 10.30