



# Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the British Caving Association  
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## Annual General Meeting 11/05/13 Hunters Lodge Inn, Priddy

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Graham Price (Chair/Cerberus Rep) GP Hayley Clark (Secretary/MCG Obs) HC Alan Gray (ACG Rep) AG Alan Dempster (Avon Scouts Rep) AD Les Williams (C&A Officer/WCC Rep) LW Mark Williams (BCA Officer/MCG Rep) MW Aubrey Newport (WCC Obs) AN Keith Batten (SMCC Rep) KB David G Cooke (Webmaster/ ChCC Rep) DGC Dave Cundy (Treasurer/SBSS Rep) DC Douglas Parker (BCG Obs) DP Geoff Dommett (BCG Rep) GD	Idris Williams (Shropshire Scouts Caving Team) Faye Litherland (Equipment Officer/BEC Rep) Ashford Speleological Society

### Meeting started at 10.10 am.

Meeting noted that it wasn't quorate as needed 25% of membership present but only had 9 reps out of 41 clubs represented. The Chairman decided that the meeting should proceed as an ordinary meeting but that no votes concerning any constitutional matters could be taken.

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

Typo in 7.10 CSC should be CSCC accepted as amended proposed LW seconded AG accepted nem con.

#### 2) Actions from previous meeting: -

- Update to CSCC handbook LW and DGC **ongoing**.
- FL to write promotional text for CSCC **ongoing but LW is now dealing with**.
- Situation in Rhino Rift **ongoing do not go below top of third pitch**.
- 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. **LW been in contact, Council will not put CSCC on statutory consultee list, CSCC advised to keep eye on local website to see if any planning applications may affect caves. LW to ask Nigel Graham who lives in Weymouth to bring to the attention of CSCC any potential planning issues**
- DGC and FL to do notes for Officers to use website and update their own pages, **DGC says some have been done but need to be tested by Officers**

#### 3) Other Matters arising from the previous meeting

None



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## 4) Chairman's Report

**4.1** GP thanked all the Officers for their hard work over the last year

**4.2** Heale Farm Cave, GP has spoken to the Land Owner, who has no issues with access. Discussions took place over the best way for people to obtain keys as people had been to get the key and it hadn't been where it was supposed to be. GP hoped that it might still be possible to negotiate the fitting of a CSCC lock.

**4.3** Loxton Cavern, will need to have more than 6m. GP proposed we order 9m in 3 x 3m lengths at 750mm diameter, cost will be £947 to include VAT, additional costs will be joiners and gate. DC to go back to BCA to confirm costs and subject to BCA approval GP can go ahead and order the pipes.

**4.4** GP had been approached by Ali Moody to ask if CSCC would be prepared to fund a connection between Zed Alley and Browne-Stewart Series in Read's Cavern at a cost of £106.20 for explosives (confirmed by GP who had supplied material). This would enable access to the downstream parts of the cave which are currently inaccessible due to the very dangerous of the Browne-Stewart boulder choke. The work involved enlarging a previously un-passed tiny connection between the bottom of Zed Alley and Browne-Stewart Series. Concern was expressed by some that this was really a digging project and did not qualify for funding. It was also questioned if there was enough passage the other side that non-digging cavers could/would want to visit. Following a lengthy discussion the meeting agreed that providing the access is large enough for the majority of cavers and that bypassing the unstable area is classified by BCA as an access project to cave and not just access to a dig site then CSCC would support the project. LW to resolve issues of whether the connection was large enough.

**4.5** Recently cavers have been involved in helping with works in Longwood Valley to help improve/prevent the reoccurrence of the flooding in Cheddar Gorge. The main Longwood sink had been dug out and the next stage would involve reopening Longwood Valley Sink. More work needs doing to make the improvements permanent, works have taken place alongside representatives from the Local Council, Somerset Trust, Charterhouse Caving Company Ltd and Natural England.

CCC Ltd have taken the lead and have been managing the project. LVS has a temporary dam encouraging the water to sink in the original shaft which is in bad condition, the newer shaft having collapsed. It is proposed to dig out the old shaft and put in pipes. Both the Local Council and CCC Ltd are putting in funding and it was suggested that CSCC may like to contribute as well.

Long discussions followed, CSCC would need to check with BCA that the money would be refundable for opening up an old dig with approximately 40m of cave. Digging rights were withdrawn by Somerset Trust many years ago but will be reinstated as part of the arrangement for opening up the cave to take flood water. CSCC does not have the funds to do this on their own and if not claimable then can't afford to contribute. Suggestions were made to approach Cheddar Traders and Cheddar caves, Longleat Estate to ask for donations as the work in the long term would benefit them by not having the Gorge closed by flooding.

Meeting concluded that CSCC definitely want to be involved and are more than happy to provide labour but if possible the money needs to be raised by other means however it was suggested to make £200 available if needed. Meeting voted for 5, against 3, abstaining 1.

**4.6** Application procedure for clubs wishing to join CCC Ltd has reopened; there are up to 2 places available, details on how to apply are on CCC web site.



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## 5) **Secretary's Report.**

**5.1** New Club joined CSCC in last couple of weeks, Buckfastleigh Caving Group of which there were 2 members present. GP welcomed them to the meeting.

## 6) **Treasurer's Report.**

**6.1** WCMS had tracked down a letter with the claim for refund that they had sent to LW in April 2008. GP has forwarded a copy of this to DC.

**6.2** DC to look into funding for the MCRA website – ongoing

**6.3** DC handed out a list of all projects carried out by CSCC clubs over last 5 years, this showed status of funds, whether they had been claimed for and money received. BCA refunded approx £1500 a couple of years ago but no details included as to what this covered, DC contacting Paul Ibberson from BCA to get clarification. DC said need to get definitive answers in writing as to what has and hasn't been paid as some items unclear, DC and DGC to go back through accounts and contact Paul Ibberson if need be.

**6.4** Accounts for 2012 have been scrutinised by AN, and signed as correct. AN to email HC accounts to distribute with minutes. Accounts proposed by KB and seconded MW accepted nem con.

**6.5** DC highlighted again that CSCC have no form of income and if anyone has any ideas on how to raise money to let people know.

**6.6** Expenses travel form had been completed by DC and was passed out to Officers to sign to say was correct, travel expenses will be claimed back from BCA and donated to CSCC.

**6.7** HC gave DC £15 in cash for Ashfield Speleological Society for the subs for the year and said she had contacted Avon & Somerset Constabulary Caving Section to remind them to pay DC direct.

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

**7.1** GD reported on progress with Sludge Pit, landowner was in England for few weeks over Easter, GD and Martin Grass have been negotiating access on behalf of CSCC. Landowner is happy for the gate to be on CSCC lock but for access to be through BEC, WCC and DCC only. Meeting was concerned how this would work

The landowner wants a log book to be completed on each trip, one to be kept with each of the 3 clubs to be completed on gaining the key, any caver with have to use a ladder and lifeline on the ladder pitch and have BCA membership and there will be a charge of £1 per person per trip. Again the meeting was concerned how this would work. It was suggested that one log book is kept just inside the cave entrance as per Fairy Cave Quarry (Shatter, W/L, Withyhill) which works well.

The meeting agreed to support GD in his continued negotiations with the landowner who he was going to speak to after the CSCC meeting. GD to reiterate that by allowing CSCC to be the access body, he as a landowner would through the CSCC be indemnified thus removing any insurance concerns. He is covered for up to 5 million pounds through BCA. CSCC would maintain the entrance and carry out any necessary works at any time.



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**Post meeting note GD spoke to landowner following the meeting and raised the concerns and passed on the points as above, as a result the land owner has agreed to run with a CSCC key and one log book inside the cave. THERE IS STILL NO OFFICIAL ACCESS until this has all be set up, so please be patient and do not visit until all has been completed. CSCC website will be updated once the situation has changed. Thanks to GD.**

7.2 Nine Barrows remains gated and there is no access

7.3 LW has stock of pins .he has 50 spare after 45 have been taken into Frozen Deep

7.4 Following the recent rescue from Reservoir Hole, the manager of Cheddar Gorge has introduced the signing of an indemnity form by all cavers going down any cave on the south side of the gorge. GP to find out more information

7.5 The access updates for the new Mendip Underground have largely been done, only a few left to do. LW to liaise with AG

7.6 Although gate is ready to put on Viaduct Sink, need to wait for the right weather/ground conditions to access the field and carry out the works

7.7 Further to recent issues regarding access to Manor Farm, landowner has requested a sign to be put up reminding cavers to pay and times/dates for access to the cave, meeting agreed for LW to action.

7.8 Update on Upper Flood guest Leaders, 2 of the 10 trainee leaders have completed their trips and are now leaders, theses are GP and Andrew Atkinson. Several others have been undertaking trips.

7.9 Gate to Compton Martin Ochre Mine will wait to the summer when it is dry enough to get to the entrance

7.10 White Pit gate is the next on the list to be done

7.11 The repair works to Swildons entrance need to be done in dry weather therefore ongoing

7.12 More conservation tape has been ordered and paid for

7.13 Priddy Green Sink looking from the inside to see what the cause of the subsidence still ongoing

## 8) Training Officer's Report

8.1 Still no Officer in post but GP has had interest from one person, GP has explained what role involves, still waiting to hear back. In the meantime if anyone else is interested please contact HC or GP for details (**Post meeting note. Confirmed he is not interested in taking on job so a Training Officer is still needed**)



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**8.2** Following recent discussions regarding the compulsory membership of BCA by award holders, AD briefly explained that at present it had no affect on CSCC therefore nothing to worry about

## 9) **Equipment Officer's Report.**

**9.1** There was an E&T meeting on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April. During this meeting the stock of current anchors was discussed. The anchor stock currently held by BCA is made of 304 stainless steel not 316 stainless steel (the old DMM anchors were made of 316 ss). It is currently not clear whether the error was with the order or the supply. I have concerns about the suitability of 304 as a construction material due to its lower corrosion resistance. FL and Bob Mayhew are currently researching the possibility of using the 304 anchor stock in locations where cave water will not be present (ie entrance pitches away from main flows of water). Nick Williams has been tasked with procuring replacement anchor stock in 316. We are hopeful that the anchor stock will arrive soon.

GP had received differing opinions on the suitability of 304 stainless and that it was adequate for use as anchors in caves. GP to pass this information to Nick Williams for consideration

**9.2** Tom Chapman has now been approved by the E&T committee as a trainer trainer and Chris Binding and Andrew Atkinson as trainers.

**9.3** Anchors have been installed in Sludge Pit Hole over the Easter weekend by Tom Chapman and Chris Binding. The anchors used for this project were old stock DMM anchors and so were deemed safe to install as were approved by BCA's Equipment and Techniques Officer on the basis that they had already been approved as suitable for BCAs anchor program

## 10) **BCA Rep's Report**

**10.1** BCA AGM to be held over the weekend of June 14-16, to include stomp, party, lectures, beer, food etc. Details can be found here <http://british-caving.org.uk/>

## 11) **Webmaster's Report**

**11.1** DGC has upgraded the Access Database so the on-line copy can now be updated directly which much is easier and quicker than updating the off-line database then exporting the changes. LW can now also add updates

## 12) **Regional Registry Officer's report**

12.1 DGC asked that any digging sites/data be added to the registry

## 13) **Election of Officers for year 2013/2014**

Chairman	<i>GP</i>
Secretary	<i>HC</i>
Treasurer	<i>DC</i>
C & A	<i>LW</i>
Equipment	<i>FL</i>
BCA Rep	<i>MW</i>
Webmaster	<i>DGC</i>
Regional Registry Officer	<i>DGC</i>
Scrutineer	<i>AN</i>



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*Officers all taken on block, proposed KB seconded GD all accepted.*

Training Officer still vacant

**14) Forthcoming Events.**

June 14-16 BCA AGM party

September 27-29<sup>th</sup> Hidden earth Monmouth

**15) AOB**

**15.1** Mendip Underground is getting nearer to completion, may not quite be ready for Hidden earth

**15.2** Caving community have been asked if they would like to be involved in the building of a dam at Nine Barrows Lane, no dates/times as yet.

**DATES FOR THE MEETINGS FOR THE NEXT YEAR**

Saturday 3rd August 2013

Saturday 2nd November 2013

Saturday 1st February 2014

Saturday 10th May 2014 (AGM)