



COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS

A constituent member of the British Caving Association

Minutes of the Open Meeting held on Saturday 13th September 2008

Present		Apologies for Absence		
Chris Binding	Chairman	Graham Price	CSS/WCC	
Carmen Smith	Secretary	Toby Maddocks	BCA Rep	
Les Williams	C & A Officer	Chris Whale	Treasurer	
David Cooke	Webmaster	Andrew Atkinson	Equipment & Bolting Officer	
Alan Dempster	Avon Scouts	Alan Gray	ACG Rep	
Rob Norcross	Moles CC	Mike Richardson	MCG Rep (who added despite the CSCC being extremely accommodating and moving all the meetings 1 calendar week so that the MCG rep could attend, noted on this 1 occasion he couldn't.)	

Minutes Of the Previous Meetings

D.C commented that technically until the 2006 accounts had been scrutinised, then they could not be signed off.

DC and CB to act as scrutinisers, CW to send relevant documents and draft accounts to Mendip for CB and DC to scrutinize.

Actions From the previous Meetings	Status
1c) A.G to approach Atlas diggers about repairing gate for Hillwithy	A.G not present. <i>Post Meeting Note – Atlas diggers busy with other projects, Rich Whitcome suggested leaving access open for locals similar to Fairy Caves so the other caves are left alone</i>
4d)DC to update CSCC cave access website with new fees for Eastwater	Completed
6a) C.S to contact BCA training Officer for further involvement and support eg to receive agendas /minutes of meetings	It was decided to advertise the post of training Officer for the CSCC first before continuing communications. Chris Jewell was contacted but turned down the post due to further increasing commitments elsewhere.

1. Chairman's Report

a) Reported that since the last meeting he replaced the missing Lock on Star Shaft, and changed and oiled the locks on 2 other sites.

b) Requests for a chain to be fitted in Rhino were received from M.N.

Subject to a lot of discussion about this on the UKCaving forum the meeting considered that installation of a chain was probably not necessary as creative rigging such as daisy chaining maillons or cavers providing their own extension slings, seemed perfectly adequate by most competent riggers..

Action : CB to contact CCC to clarify support for this new decision and for CCC to then publish a supporting statement.

c) The Fernhill diggers had expressed strong interest in protecting the formations of Fernhill (when found, if they are still intact) by retaining the control of access to Fernhill by FCQMC. If the formations have been damaged by quarrying activity then access is likely to be passed back to the CSCC.

2. Secretary's Report	
Current Membership stands at 32 member clubs as of 30/7/08	
Correspondence Received	
BCA AALA Safety Alert - Mines	
DCA Agendas and circular	
Speleology and BCA handbook editors Information Requests	
Minutes of Training Committee (courtesy of Steve King)	
Request for information on Local cave leader awards	
Change of email address Steve Harkness	
Rhino Rift Chain Request (see Chairmans report)	
Cow Hole entrance issues (see Conservation and Access report)	
Request for membership West Sussex Cave Club (granted)	
a) CSCC now needs a new Training Officer and next year the Treasurer is standing down. Is there any caver or ex caver out there interested in regional caving Issues, that would like to get involved. Email any of the Officers.	
b) The secretary reminded the Officers that any news of interest be emailed to Em and Mike for the BCA newsletter. It was also noted that Erin for Speleology Magazine was interested in any updates. L.W suggested adding them to the minutes list so they automatically receive a copy.	
Post meeting note Erin, Em and Mike added to email list. newsletter@british-caving.org.uk	

3. Treasurers Report		Status
The Current Account stands at £201.11		As of 13.09.08
The main Account holds £3051.49		As of 13.09.08
a) Regrettably due to further commitments at home would be standing down as Treasurer at the next AGM in May 2009 unless a candidate could be found sooner.		C.S to advertise post with Training Officers Post

4. Conservation and Access Officers Report		Status
a) A new development at Sands Quarry Corsham is underway. CSCC members have expressed concern that access to some valuable historical mines may be lost amongst the developments. Chris Davies a keen mine expert local to the area has been tasked to speak to the developer to see if the concerns are warranted, or whether it need be a CSCC issue.(as appose to English Nature/English Heritage or Bat protection people.)		Awaiting Outcome
b) Stabilisation works have been continuing at the beginning of the Drain Pipe in Goatchurch Cavern. This was first highlighted on the UKCaving forum by Andy Sparrow, who put signs up alerting other groups of the unstable nature of the area. Work then commenced to stabilise the area, but as the project soon escalated more help was needed. Buddy et al (SMCC) took over. This has become a far more significant collapse than initially thought therefore funding for stabilisation materials is being sought.		Proposed and Accepted. Goatchurch diggers to Liaise with LW to provide receipts for funding
c) CS received correspondence from Mick Norton about stabilisation work in		MN to provide costs/receipt/or

<p>Cow Hole. CS went back through the old minutes and noted that Funding had been granted to the MCG for stabilisation work should they require it. At no point did it say the CSCC would be taking on this task. Awaiting Reply.</p>	<p>proposals for works to be done.</p>
<p>d) Funding for Bedlam Bank stone Mine from Peter Burgess, CS noted access terms were required before CSCC would comment further. It has since been noted CSCC weren't able to fund lawyers/solicitors fees or land rental agreements but could fund the material costs of securing the entrance (subject to access arrangements)</p> <p>Post meeting Note. CS contacted PB for the access arrangements, these have been supplied via email, CS to provide at next meeting, LW to provide receipts for works done as per letter dated to LW on the 13th April for £760.44 for building works and £124.06 for padlocks and Keys.</p>	<p>LW/CS to provide documentation to progress claim as provided by PB</p>

5. Equipment/Bolting Officers Report

Andrew was not present at the meeting however CS was aware that he had been to the latest E & T meeting . Further resin had been acquired such that P bolting on Mendip could be recommenced. Typically over the 6 week summer period Andrew and his team of helpers were all so busy doing summer activities (caving climbing cycling), that not one week coincided were any work could be done. If any CSCC members would like to learn a bit about P bolting or feel they have time to spare to get things progressing quicker please feel free to contact any CSCC officer.

6. Training Officers Report	Action
No Training Officer in Post. Post to be advertised.	Secretary to advertise post to CSCC Clubs.

7. Webmasters Report	Action
It was reported that there were problems with the Access pages on the website. DC said this was an issue with the service provider.	Post meeting note Now all fixed. BCA are renting their own server so will in effect be their own web hosts.

8. BCA Officers Report

a) The BCA Officer hadn't been able to attend any meetings regrettably and also wouldn't be able to make the Oct 5th one either. However the meetings had been attended by LW and DC who were able to make the following Comments

b) Concerns were raised on The UKCaving Forum, and by CSCC members regarding an undated letter from BCA's Legal & Insurance Officer which accompanied these documents stated, in reference to communications with the Government:

"The caving policy matters made clear to them are:-

1. we do not regard caving as a suitable activity for "children "

This unqualified statement of "policy" expressed in the letter is NOT the official BCA Policy - it is made quite clear in the accompanying approved document "BCA Child Protection Policy" exactly what the

1. BCA Policy entails and there are sensible "Guidance Notes".....
(above quoted from DCA letter to BCA asking for clarification of this potentially misinterpreted document J.Potts 16 August 2008)

DC stated Those getting upset seemed ignore the fact the letter was quoted out of context and was address specifically to caving clubs and was talking specifically about Child Protection Policy. Most of these clubs have a lower age limit of 18. It is ironic that BCA is being perceived as anti young-person when in fact it was encouraging these clubs to lower their age limit to 14. However the perception is now there.

Therefore with CSCC support DC is to take the following statement to the BCA meeting.

"The BCA is committed to removing barriers to participation for children and young persons who wants to start caving."

Post meeting note The DCA have also taken this matter up in an official capacity as shown in the extract above.

<p>c) D.C also mentioned that the rules around who could make claim to BCA for funding projects such as access to Mines and Caves is being looked into as to whether this should extend to other access bodies outside the regional council remit.</p>
<p>d) Post meeting Note hot of the press from Glenn Jones at Hidden Earth. The eco hangers being looked at to replace the no longer produced old style p hanger, where down to 2 candidates. The DMM and the Chinese manufactured one. The DMM company expert was brought in during testing of both anchors. The Chinese version (produced by John Simms a uk potholer now living in China) was pulled to 25kn before the hydrojaw puller snapped!!!!</p>
<p>e) BCA is to be involved a company called Bingo Lotto. This organisation shows short films each week on a variety of sporting events. The idea is to raise profile of these sports., At the same time, watchers of this program are encouraged to buy Bingo Lotto tickets with a view to winning the weekly lottery. There is no commitment to BCA to participate but individuals have already been approached with a view to making some small films highlighting the sport of Caving. Not only will this raise profile in our sport but also provide funding for BCA and Caving Clubs. http://www.bingolotto.tv/consumers/beneficiaries/about-the-beneficiaries/ For further information.</p>
<p>Dates of next BCA meetings 4th Oct 2008 10th Jan 2009 28th March 2009 (AGM)</p>

Any Other Business	Action
Rob Norcross will be spearheading the production of an updated version of the CSCC handbook, to include topos, and new sites since the last one was published."	Provisional production date Spring 2009
Rachel Payne and Andy Sparrow are opening a new shop in Cheddar called Cavelimb.com. CSCC wishes them every success and would encourage member clubs to support this venture. www.caveclimb.com	Open Evening Saturday 4 th October. Website goes live 6 th October.
DC plugged the new Mendip Cave registry website http://www.mcra.org.uk/Introduction.html	
CSCC are saddened to report the loss of two fine Southern cavers. Tony Jarratt of BAT products in Wells taken after a short battle with cancer, and John Maneely of the Wessex cave club who died tragically in a cave diving incident in France.	

Forthcoming Events
The BEC have introduced a limited edition ale called "Old Rats Piss" in memory of Tony Jarrett http://www.olderatspiss.co.uk/
Suicro 24 th -26 th October Irelands answer to Hidden Earth http://www.cavingireland.org/suicro/

Dates of next meeting
13 th December 2008 Hunters Lodge 10.30 am
14 th February 2009 Hunters Lodge 10.30 am