



COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS

A constituent member of the British Caving Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on
Saturday 16th May 2009

1. Attendance Sheet

Present 8 Reps from 32 Member clubs Meeting declared Quorum
Alan Gray was elected from the floor to act as Chairman.

David Cooke	CSCC Webmaster and ChCC Rep	(1)
Les Williams	C&A and WCC rep	(2)
Carmen Smith	CSCC Secretary SCG Rep	(3)
Alan Gray	ACG Rep	(4)
Alan Dempster	Avon Scouts Rep	(5)
Andrew Atkinson	Equipment/Bolting Officer	
Chris Whale	CSCC Treasurer SBSS Rep	(6)
David Cundy	SBSS	
Mike Richardson	MCG Rep	(7)
Linda Wilson	UBSS Rep	(8)
Catherine Hulse	UBSS	

2. Apologies for Absence

Chris Binding (Chairman), Alan Butcher (SMCC Rep), Paul Dold (West Sussex Cave club)

3. Applications for Membership

- Rejoin request from Avon and Somerset Police. The Treasurer confirmed that payment had been received – Accepted by meeting.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- Re Bolting Officer's Report - DC requested a reword from "preliminary survey" to "proposal" should be requested for the location of bolts in Wigmore

5. Actions from Previous Meeting

- The Compton Martin Ochre Mine gate needs repairing – LW to action – Not Completed - Ongoing
- Update on access info for Portlands Ariel and Blacknor caves – LW to liaise with NG – No Update - Ongoing
- GP to write to the head of Environment ref the loss of the two AONB wardens on Mendip – Completed
- Coral cave Lock is rusted up and needs removing – CB Actioned – completed – Further reports of problems with the mechanism of this gate need following up. LW to liaise with BF
- DC to check access details for cavers to Bedlam Bank Mine upto date, on the website – Completed with input from PB (Wealdon)
- Reynolds Rift in Chelmscombe Quarry – update from A.G – Completed report to follow in AOB
- There has been a request for Bolts to be placed In Wigmore AA dealing. – More on this in Equip Officers report
- 2006, 2007 Accounts to be to be signed-off- CW - Outstanding. To be scrutinised by DGC. and AN Other, possibly one of the un-elected Treasurer candidates.

6. Matters arising from Previous meeting

- None Arising

7. Chairman's Report

- a. After 11 years involvement with CSCC I am standing down this year "to spend more time with my caving"; because of this I shall also sadly be unable to attend the forthcoming AGM. I wish my successor well and also those with whom I have enjoyed working within various roles over CSCC business.
- b. AG offered a vote of thanks from the meeting to the work done by Chris over the years.

8. Secretary's Report

- a. After 2 years of chasing for reports and receiving next to nothing I'm slowly losing the will to live, therefore would like to find a new successor to fill the role of General Dogs Body and minor irritant..
- b. As yet no willing volunteers have been found. ☹ Please someone save me.
- c. In the last CSCC quarter:-
 - a. We have received an application from the Avon and Somerset Police to rejoin CSCC
 - b. Training Minutes were received and went on the CSCC website courtesy of Steve King.
 - c. There's been a request to place an Eco Anchor in Charterhouse
 - d. A request was received to repair some dry stone walling on the walk to Swildons, a quotation for works to be done was presented at the meeting for approval. (see C and A report)
 - e. The West Sussex Cave club have requested a CSCC key. (Forwarded to LW who holds the keys but the club still hasn't received one)
 - f. Three offers of support were received for potential replacement Treasurers
 - g. A fair amount of discussion via email on the new E&T bolting proposals
 - h. Jenny Potts has kept us up to date with the DCA's events.
- d. AG asked if the secretary would mind filling in till the next meeting when hopefully a replacement could be found. CS agreed, subject to not having to chase officers repeatedly for reports.

9. Treasurer's Report

- a. The Treasurer reported healthy accounts despite a lot of monies going out. On completion of scrutinised 2006, 2007, 2008 accounts, most of it is subject to BCA funding and thus would be coming back in.
- b. He produced a copy of the 2008 accounts to the meeting for info.
- c. Current account stands at £250. The Reserve Account stands at £2400
- d. CW reminded the officers that he would need to pass the online banking details to the new Officer and A N Other as the 2nd officer holding the banking details was the Secretary.
- e. AG Gave a vote of thanks from the meeting for the work Chris had done for the CSCC.

10. Conservation & Access Report

- a. LW and CS received email correspondence from Alan Butcher on behalf of Robin Maine the landowner for Swildons.
The Dry stone walls on the walk to Swildons were in a poor state of repair, cavers had been seen walking over the walls rather than using the styles. Funding was being sought from the CSCC to repair these walls. A quotation for works was submitted for approx £775.
The meeting unanimously voted in favour of the CSCC funding the work as a goodwill token to the landowner.
- b. A report had been received from Darkplaces (a group of mine enthusiasts) that one of the Cranes in Box Mines had been painted, by persons unknown, with silver hammerite and oil, in what is believed to be a well intentioned effort to preserve them.
The group were alarmed that the action taken was without professional consultation and whilst well intentioned it was more likely to have caused damage through vandalism than to actively sensibly preserve them.
CSCC holds no legal status on the conservation of the cranes as they are on private land, however have opened an informal line of communication with the group concerned for the cranes future, with possible further financial support if professional opinions could be sought as to a more appropriate form of preserving the cranes.
- c. The group have also compiled an up to date record of all the cranes in Box mines, their location and current state of preservation.
- d. Heal Farm Cave – a small cave on the land of Aggregate Industries was recently filled in due to alleged pressures received from the local residents in Downend.
Natural England became involved as there were issues about the legalities of this, and the cave was

subsequently reopened.

It remains blocked in the entrance however as earth spilled into the bedrock cracks and crevasses. A small group are currently trying to regain access to the main cave.

There remains the possibility on successful reopening of the cave that the company may wish the cave to be gated to satisfy all parties involved. GP to monitor.

- e. Linda Wilson asked what the current access arrangements to Brownes Hole was. GP replied there is no formal access agreement.
- f. CS asked whether the gate to Compton Martin Ochre mine had been fixed. LW replied no
- g. CS asked whether there were further reports on the Blacknor Cave access issues in Portland. LW replied no.
- h. CS asked LW whether he'd received the correspondence about East Sussex scouts requesting a CSCC key. LW stated he had received the correspondence but no key had been issued.

11. Bolting Coordinator/Equipment Officer Report

- a. AA applied formally for retrospective permission to place a bolt on a pitch in the new Charterhouse due to limited timescales with his last batch of resin going out of date
This request went out formally by email to all CSCC member clubs and the Secretary asked for any objections to be submitted prior to installation. Andrew successfully installed the bolt prior to the resin going out of date.
Proposed AA Seconded CS No objections. Motion Passed.
- b. The request to bolt the 8m pitch in the new Charterhouse extensions came from the Charterhouse Caving Company Ltd via Alison Moody & Graham Mullan. The intention is to place for ladder and line (most probably one for the ladder and a couple back from the pitch for belay, slings can be used for bottom belaying. The anchors are required to conserve the only available natural belay which will be damaged over time if used as a belay point.
- c. As a result AA also suggested that this streamlined rapid e-approach be adopted by CSCC in order to reduce layers of bureaucracy and speed up the rate at which a request for placement to the placing of the anchor can be made. It was agreed that four weeks notice was required. If there was any dissent the decision would have to be taken to the next meeting.
- d. At the previous meeting LW had raised concerns that the rock type in Wigmore may not be suitable to be accepted into the BCA bolting scheme. AA stated this was incorrect as bolts currently go into many different types of limestone throughout the country and testing of each type was not realistic or necessary provided all the other requirements for bolting were fulfilled. He also added he believed the bolts, not including the two in the concrete entrance cap, in Star Shaft were in conglomerate and had been accepted into the scheme.
- e. The location of the bolts to be placed in Wigmore was confirmed by the diggers as Black Pudding Pot.
- f. AA also reported concern at the Equipment and Techniques Committee's new BCA bolting installation proposals. Since receiving the report, he has been in email communications with the E&T group, raising his concerns over a few issues. However had felt his concerns were not being heeded, he therefore brought these concerns to the meeting.
The following is a summary of his raised concerns and the final wording to go to the BCA meeting in June.

Following the CSCC AGM May 16th it came to our attention that there has been a proposal from the E&T committee to make Training Procedures for Installation of Eco Hangers under the BCA scheme only available to people who are trained.

The CSCC believes to avoid the problems of the past, open publication supported by distribution list, is the best practice method. CSCC does not support the need for such documents to be kept secret, particularly as the BCA is not operating at Industry level, where this practice is only undertaken to protect commercial advantage and profit. Furthermore CSCC believe that there are errors and issues that need clarification in the current (v3 Feb 09) Permanent Resin Bonded Anchors Installation Procedure, Training & Documentation, the crucial issue of the expiry date only covers one form of labelling out of the 2 types that have been in circulation to the current installers, however, are not privileged to the documents therefore cannot fully assess this. It is also noted that Permanent Resin Bonded Anchors Installation Procedure, Training & Documentation is the Primary Document of the scheme, therefore how can it be only given to people that have attended the training course.

*CSCC seeks to encourage the use of an online-meaningful List - of all bolts placed under the BCA scheme as to their current test status. This would aid a sport caver in determining a bolts suitability or not.
Without this there is no way for a caver to tell, as it is known that identical anchors were sold openly for many years.
The CSCC is also worried about the audit trail for the installation of the anchors, while the openness will help, surely a*

central record kept and available to a selected group is critical for such a safety and insurance liability

CSCC would like further information as to why the E&T has reinstated the pulling test method after the placement of new bolts, having dismissed it 2 years ago as damaging the anchors, before it goes any way to accepting the new Anchor scheme.

The CSCC would also like to see the word SRT removed from the installation procedures were it states "Installers must be competent in SRT, rigging and identify new positions....."

The CSCC questions how the anchors already placed will be brought into the scheme under the new testing system under the proposed scheme.

12. Webmaster's Report

- a. DCo reported that the new CSCC mailing list has been activated.
- b. He wished to thank Dave Gibson for hosting the mail list all this time free of charge.

13. BCA Officer's Report

- a. No report received.
- b. LW stated the BCA were looking for enterprising individuals/groups to come up with a new idea for an artificial cave.
- c. There are also vacancies for the BCA posts of Individual Rep. and Club Rep.
- d. A new group representing the interests of Scout Cavers has been formed, similar to the way that the Council for Higher Education Caving Clubs represents those of University caving clubs. It is called the Association of Scout Caving Teams (ASCT). For information contact Idris Williams

14. Training Officers Report

- a. Eventually filled by C.B who initially stated he felt that this post could only be utilised effectively for CSCC member clubs if a suitable training venue could be sourced in the area for BCA part funded SRT training. The Wessex Cave Club had recently vetoed any commercial training on their Tower and as such wouldn't be able to offer cavers, using BCA part funded training, access to their tower. The Cerberus however have since come forward to offer their Hut as a suitable base for SRT training on successful completion of the tower.
CB to liaise with other Local CIC's and clubs willing to provide SRT venues for training.

15. Motions For Discussion

- a. Requests from 4 member clubs have been made for the meetings to be changed to Sundays, or evenings. It was felt by several clubs that Saturday was the best day for caving and meetings could be held outside this time. This turned into an official request of 3 as 2 members came from the same club. However as none of the requesters were present at the time of discussion to suggest an alternative, this was voted on and over-ruled.
- b. 3 requests were received to reduce the amount of meeting s held each year in favour of an active email correspondence, similar to that set up recently by the webmaster.
The majority of those at the meeting felt four face to face meetings a year was necessary, however it was agreed that CSCC business does not need to occur in geological time frames and issues could be submitted/proposed/and accepted in far quicker time scales if the Reps. and Officers would communicate with each other more frequently via email.

16. Elections of Officers

Chairman -	No replacement - post vacant – to be called from floor each meeting.
Secretary -	No replacement - post vacant – Secretary agreed to continue to next meeting.
Treasurer -	David Cundy – Proposed Chris Whale Seconded Carmen Smith - Accepted
Training Officer -	Chris Binding – Proposed Carmen Smith Seconded Graham Price - Accepted
C & A Officer	Les Williams – Willing to serve again
Webmaster –	Dave Cooke - Willing to serve again
Equipment /Bolting Officer –	Andrew Atkinson - Willing to serve again
BCA Officer -	Post Vacant on account on not having received correspondence from previous Officer for approx 10 months

17. Forthcoming Events

18. Any Other Business

(Report from Alan Gray)

Mendip Cave Survey Scheme

A meeting was held on 24 April 2009 and it was agreed that the scheme should be wound up since the surveys were rarely requested used and the majority of surveys were out of date. It was agreed that the Mendip Cave Registry and Archive (MCRA) would make the surveys, covered by the scheme, available, as free downloads from their web site.

MCRA

The latest edition of the Bibliography has now been uploaded with entries to March 2009.

The meeting was informed that the web site had been updated to include Westinghouse apprentices and John Aylott's log books and also downloads of Dave Irwin's Catalogues of ephemera and postcards of Mendip caves with the exception of Wookey and Goughs. Behind the scenes the registry databases have now been combined and there is now an on-line faculty for Registrars to update their area. To incorporate the Surveys as downloads will require an additional 39M worth of web space and to add Dave's catalogues of Wookey and Gough's will require an additional 355Mb. Also the Photograph gallery is nearly complete which will also require additional web space, this should not be extensive since the photos will be displayed as thumbnails.

Since the MCRA web space is funded by the CSCC this was discussed and it was agreed that an additional 1Gb would be provided at an annual cost of £10. [Post meeting note: It's actually £15/1Gb]

Fernhill Cave

After just over a year of digging the ATLAS team explored Fernhill Cave on Monday evening, a large chamber with a few formations leading to Curtain Chamber which is highly decorated Unfortunately due to quarry blasting in the 1960's, about 18 inches of the large curtain is broken off with the remnants laying on the floor, but it is still about 3 feet long with bands of white and brown. There are also about 30 other curtains, undamaged and quite spectacular. Due to the positioning of the formations, Curtain Chamber is very vulnerable to damage.

Fairy Cave Quarry Committee will assess the cave for leadership rules.

Chelm's Combe Quarry Caves

Reynold's Rift is only blocked by a couple of large boulders so re-opening will only require a minimum effort. The vulnerability of the three caves in the quarry was discussed since none of the caves are gated and they contained some good formations. It was agreed that these caves should be gated and funding for this, by the CSCC, would be dependent upon access via the CSCC key.

***Actions** – Alan to determine if the new quarry owners would allow access via the CSCC key and also Alan to determine a cost to supply and fit the three gates.*

19. Dates Of Next Meeting

General Meeting September 5th 2009 Hunters Lodge Priddy 10:30 am

General Meeting December 5th 2009 Hunters Lodge Priddy 10:30 am

General Meeting Feb 6th 2010 Hunters Lodge Priddy 10:30 am

Annual General Meeting May 8th 2010 Hunters Lodge Priddy 10:30 am