



Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the British Caving Association
www.csc.org.uk

General Meeting 05.11.11. Hunters Lodge Inn, Priddy

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Graham Price (Chair/Cerberus Rep) GP	Idris Williams (Shropshire Scouts)
Hayley Clark (Secretary/MCG Obs) HC	Mark Williams (BCA Officer) MW
David G Cooke (Webmaster/ChCC Rep) DGC	Alan Gray (ACG Rep) AG
Les Williams (C&A Officer/WCC Rep) LW	Aubrey Newport (WCC) AN
Faye Litherland (Equipment Officer/BEC Obs) FL	Dave Cundy (Treasurer/SBSS Rep) DC
Alan Dempster (Avon Scouts Rep) AD	Ashford Speleological Society
Alan Butcher (SMCC Rep) AB	
Darrel Instrell (MNRC Rep) DI	
Ed Waters (MCG Rep) EW	
Stuart Gardiner (BEC Rep)	
Graham Mullen (UBSS Rep)	

Meeting started at 10.05am.

1) Minutes of the previous meeting (30/07/11)

Amend 7.4 typo style should be stile.

Amend 7.10 to read "National Trust now has a licence agreement with ACG for digging on Shute Shelve Hill"

Accepted as amended proposed LW seconded SG accepted nem com

2) Actions from previous meeting: -

- 1.1 GP to put note on website regarding parking at Reeds/Rods Pot. **Done**
- 5.1 HC email Training Committee minutes to AB to request a summary to be circulated before next meeting. (Take under item 10)
- 6.3 DGC to put electronic copy of mileage claim form on website. **Ongoing**
- 7.1 Update on various gates (Take under item 9)
- 7.2/7.3 Loxton Cavern update including state of entrance shaft and confirmation of leadership system (Take under item 9)
- 7.4 Repair to fence at Cuckoo Cleaves (Take under item 9)
- 7.5 LW to contact Weymouth Council (Take under item 9)
- 7.6 CSCC handbook actions LW and DGC (Take under item 9) **Ongoing**
- 14 FL to write promotional text for CSCC and make poster for Hidden Earth. **Ongoing**

3) Other Matters arising from the previous meeting

None



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4) Chairman's Report

4.1 GP has received several enquiries regarding fracking and what the affect will be on caves, GP distributed article from Mendip Society at the meeting, at the moment little is known about the effects, HC to distribute article with minutes.

5) Secretary's Report.

5.1 HC requested that if Officers are unable to attend meetings that they ensure they email a report to her even if it is to say "No Report". There is no excuse as the meetings are set months ahead unless there is a last minute emergency.

6) Treasurer's Report.

6.1 No report received from the treasurer.

6.2 AN has not received the 2009 accounts to scrutinise. When he does receive them, if there are no changes they can be distributed, if amendments need to be made a decision will then be taken by Officers as to whether they need to be discussed again at the next meeting.

7) Conservation & Access Officer's Report

7.1 Brownes Folly Mine entrance has had to be modified due to reports of attempted theft of the railway lines, some pieces of railway track have been found to have been moved from Clapham Junction to just inside the entrance, possibly for imminent removal. LW has expenses claim for materials used, will pass on to treasurer.

7.2 Bush at Cuckoo Cleeves has been removed but status of fence repair unknown – ongoing.

7.3 Loxton Cavern, Doug Harris has recently visited this cave and stated that the entrance is not very good. ACG will, as a winter project, be digging in Loxton Quarry Cave which will hopefully connect with Loxton Cavern. When/If this connection is made then the old entrance can be closed.

Locks have been changed on Loxton Cavern and although LW has list of leaders, list is old and probably out of date, LW to contact people on list and see if they are still leaders.

7.4 Situation regarding caves on Portland and Ove Arup still unclear, two separate enquiries have lead to differing accounts of what is happening, on speaking to Ove Arup direct it appears they are carrying out a feasibility study for the possibility of building a geological study centre but the local rumours have reported that there are investigations into sub surface gas storage. Further investigation is needed into the matter. ACTION LW

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.

7.5 No progress on any of the gates needing repair/replacing, however Priddy Green Sink entrance is now a priority due to location and the concerns of the Parish Council.



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7.6 LW has been contacted regarding the state of the entrance/gate to Thrupe Lane Swallet, LW to visit site and assess.

7.7 Upper Flood, MCG are asking for expressions of interest from cavers for guest leaders. MCG are proposing to base the guest leader system on the Fairy Cave Quarry system, leaders will not be club based and there will be approx 10. Leaders will need to be experienced cavers, and be interested in the history of the cave, conservation and preservation. The full details are still to be finalised but when complete will be available on the MCG website. Any interest in being a leader please contact Kevin Speight of the MCG. LW thanked MCG members involved for getting the guest leader system sorted and has offered any help he can.

7.8 Conservation tape has nearly run out, LW to buy more as several rolls have been used in Upper Flood as part of a big MCG conservation project.

7.9 LW has new batch of CSCC locks. Club Reps to take back to their clubs to take care not to put mud into locks when opening/closing them, if the lock doesn't work LW requests that they are returned to him for servicing rather than being discarded as would be useful to see if there is a weak point in the locks that causes a common failure.

7.10 Spider Hole now has CSCC lock/key, access arrangements to be put on CSCC website, LW to get rigging topo from Mark Helmore and add to website. FL asked is any anchors needed to be installed in Spider Hole, answer is no for the moment as the exploration bolts are currently fine.

8) Training Officer's Report

8.1 AB has read Training Committee minutes and reported he was unhappy with them, he wants to attend the next meeting with DI however as communication with the Training Committee is lacking, the CSCC don't receive agendas and the minutes are sent out very late. AB to write letter to the BCA Secretary to point out the errors within the minutes and then email to HC to send out along with a copy to the Training Committee. AB to also write to the Training Committee regarding the poor communication with a copy sent to BCA Secretary HC to send these out as well.

8.2 Need to get training event organised as has been a while since the CSCC held one. DI to look into ideas for what people want, Club Reps to ask their clubs what sort of training event they would like to see being held and what they would attend. Some ideas are basic SRT, SRT rescue techniques and photography workshop.

9) Equipment Officer's Report.

9.1 E&T Committee Meeting held on 08/10/11 attended by FL and DGC, following discussions to bring together regions into one anchor placement scheme, CSCC have agreed to re-join the BCA anchor scheme. The following statement was made at the meeting:

"As a result of the process of arbitration, CSCC have agreed to the IPTD including a requirement for SRT competence, on the basis that the document will become copyright of BCA and subject to future revision as agreed by the E+T Committee"

As CSCC are now part of the BCA scheme, we need to put forward names for people to be trained in placing anchors as part of the BCA scheme, FL proposed



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putting forward the same people who attended the anchor placement demonstration earlier this year under the CSCC scheme. In order to make it possible for people to attend we need to ensure that any training takes place on Mendip at a weekend.

The few remaining items of equipment owned by the BCA but held by the CSCC do not need to be returned but can continue to be used on Mendip.

9.2 A prototype batch of Chinese Peco anchors were bought as a replacement for the DMM Eco anchor. These were made to BCA specification and 82 were installed in caves in the Yorkshire Dales. However, the production batch that was ordered, following acceptance of the prototype batch, failed the acceptance criteria through elongation and catastrophic failure. This is suspected to be due to problems with the metal or manufacturing process. This failure has reduced the confidence level in the original batch of prototype anchors and so these will be replaced over a period of time. A statement has been issued on the BCA website <http://british-caving.org.uk/?page=165>. BCA are now looking for a replacement anchor.

9.3 Request for placement of anchors in Rhino Rift for new route has been received however this will be passed onto CCC Ltd to approve first, FL to forward to CCC Ltd

9.4 Reports received of very unstable nature of pitch 3 in Rhino, cavers advised to either stay away from Rhino or just do the first 2 pitches until further notice.

9.5 Request received by FL for placement of anchors in various places within Rods Pot/Bath Swallet, FL proposed that subject to landowner approval and following a site visit that this be accepted, meeting agreed.

10) BCA Rep's Report

10.1 Following recent publicity, public liability is to go up from £2 million to £5 million which results in an increase in subscriptions of £1 per person.

11) Webmaster's Report

11.1 Nothing to report.

12) Regional Registry Officers Report

12.1 DGC now has a contact in each of the regions.

13) Forthcoming Events.

13.1 Cavers Fayre to be combined with Wessex Challenge next summer date TBC

14) AOB

14.1 Parking for Reeds/Rods is still causing problems with regards to blocking the access road, vehicles seen parked in the wrong places are not those of cavers but walkers however cavers are getting the blame, it is requested that anyone visiting these caves parks in Burrington Coombe and walks up the lane to the caves.

Next meeting 04 February 2012

Meeting Closed: 12:20