



Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the British Caving Association

www.csccl.org.uk

Minutes of General Meeting – Friday 6 Sept 2021

Draft 1 Oct 2021

1 Attendance

Voting Attendees

Alan Grey
Barry Wilkinson
Dave Cooke
Frank Tully
Jason Kirby
Judi Durber
Linda Wilson
Peter Burgess
Simon Richards

9 Voting reps

ACG
WRCG
Cheddar CC
WCC
MCG
EECC
UBSS
WCMS
BEC

AG
BW
DC
FT
JK
JD
LJW
PB
SR

Treasurer/Webmaster
Secretary

BCA Rep

Non Voting Attendees (Observers)

Aubrey Newport
Chris Binding
Dave Keegan
Ed Waters
Graham Mullan
Laura Benn
Pete Hall

AN
CB
DK
EW
GM
LB
PH

Training Officer
Chair
CCC Ltd rep
Comms Officer

2 Apologies for Absence

Alan Dempster
Bill Chadwick
Dave King
Graham Price
Haley Chadwick
Tim Ball

3 Approval of minutes from AGM 14 May 2021

Minutes approved with corrections, Proposed LJW. Seconded DC, Vote passed Unanimous

4 Chairman's report Ed Waters

EW Apologies there there has not been a meeting of the Subcommittee on individual membership.

An issue raised is the long gap between meetings over the summer.

Similarly should we continue with zoom meetings?

Contact the chair or secretary. Add the two issues agenda for next meeting.

LJW proposes that the November meeting to be online, Seconded BW, Passed Unanimous



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5 Secretary's report Frank Tully

Not a lot to report

5.1 New Members

New members Gagendor Caving Club have applied for CSCC membership, they are BCA members.

6 C&A Report

GP has forwarded his report to the chairman. This was read out at the meeting.

EW GP has been in discussion with Cheddar, there has been no movement and the caves on the South side of the Gorge continue to be closed.

GP has acknowledged receipt of a request from the Spider hole diggers to remove their kit, this request has been passed onto Longleat but no reply has been forthcoming as yet.

EW Star Shaft gate has been ordered.

Singing River Mine

EW The landowner has asked for the gate to be replaced . GP has agreed a design at a cost of £1000.

A full and frank discussion took place

Expenditure contingent on an access agreement; Proposed JD, seconded LJW, 8For 1Abs 0Against, passed NemCon

Manor farm Swallet

EW Wall is built, the grill and gate are being fitted

Manor Farm Mine Shaft

Ground has now been stabilised, new gate is now fitted

Ubley Hill Pot

The new owner is still withholding access but amenable to an access agreement.

At the last meeting we gave approval for replacing the gate.

Pondsmead gates

A series of entrances in what is now a campsite, Completed

Ubley Warren Estate

There was some vandalism to the locks however these have been replaced.

EW I would like to thank GP for all the work he is putting in.

He is spending upwards of 10 hours a week on CSCC C&A issues, however does he need some assistance?



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PH We appear to be doing a lot of work, as communications officer, could I have some photographs for showing our members what we are doing.

EW I will ask GP and any others to forward some photographs and regular updates to the communications officer.

7 Treasurer

Report published in CSCC website

DC BCA are increasing the membership fee for CIMS and DIMS, from £17 to £20. See BCA finance report for reasons.

DC Our expenditure is around 10K, made up mostly of gates.

EW We need a new treasurer, could attendees please take this requirement back to their clubs. This role only requires a few hours work a month.

EW My aim as chair is to increase CSCC's profile such that we have enough volunteers. That is why we need to be publicise what we are doing so that people want to help us.

8 Equipment Officer

Apologies I will be doing the Berger, hopefully, at the time of the next meeting.

Following the report of new anchors on the Right hand route in Rhino Rift, I with Sioned Haughton and Dave King went to investigate. The report was correct. A poor and probably unsafe job had been done, with some anchors placed very close to existing anchors and many of the anchors had not been set correctly rotating in there holes.

An officers meeting agreed that urgent action was needed and CCC Ltd agreed. A set of 24 anchors was sent with all the glue they had left from CNCC. Thanks to Simon ?? who made time to go through the details that his experience had taught him was different from previous anchors and glue. At the time it was a bit dubious that we had enough glue, especially as the plan was to drill out the spits therefore the first part of the hole would be larger. It was decided that enough could be done to justify the trip. Seven people came on the trip to do the work.

Dave King and I have written articles for Descent with the full details. Thanks to Bartec Beila, Pauline Biela, Tom Chapman, Dave King and Kevin Speight,

A further trip By Si Flower and myself was then undertaken to draw up the rigging diagram.

The anchor request form has been turned into a pdf form and uploaded to the web site along with the anchor request form for Rhino Rift, filled in by myself on behalf of Graham Mullen for CCC ltd.

On trying to upload the rigging diagram and other information about the anchors places in Rhino I have been unable to edit the web pages with the site going down on trying, Dave Cooke is aware of the problem.

I now also have enough anchors and probably enough glue to so the agreed anchors in Approach Passage in Swildons, which hopefully will be done, on my return, in the last couple of weeks of September

Andrew



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DC The BCA website had an issue which stopped the Wiki being updated, I believe this has now been fixed.

9 Communications Officer

PH Since my appointment I have been finding my feet, a quick thanks to DC for giving me some training on using the website.

The general way we are publishing stories is to publish on the website and think link other media back to our website. Generally we are using the mailing list, facebook, and UK Caving.

PH Currently on social media.

Our current second highest reach or interaction is 822 people clicking through to the singing river mine story, with 978 views on UK Caving. The same pattern is seen for other stories. Twitter is a platform we are not currently using, however looking at CNCC who are using it I am not sure how effective it will be, but will be registering an account and giving it a try. Similarly with Instagram. Looking at CNCC and Instagram, they get quite a bit more interest but we require lots of photo content.

DK Something to be aware of is the different demographics: parents use Facebook; Instagram is used by younger cavers, and younger cavers are much more likely to like and click through.

LJW Reporting from Darkness below, the singing river mine recorded 700 different views.

LJW To post on darkness below please forward the stories to LJW or GM

PH The most popular story by far was the Rhino Rift re-bolting, unfortunately the Facebook algorithm decided to give us some free advertising, this was not particularly directed or well received, we got a lot of comments along the lines of 'why have you sent this advertisement this to me', to this unplanned experiment has shown that paid advertising on Facebook is probably not the way to go.

9.1 UK Caving

PH I would like to use UKCaving for distributing CSCC news

EW We have in the past voted not to have an official UKCaving channel. However we do have people who post on our behalf in a personal capacity.

EW Could members take this to their clubs and bring the views to the next meeting.

10 Training Officer

DK Unfortunately I have not been busy, we did organise some training but we had some last minute drop outs and had to cancel. This has shown that there is a demand for training but just not that weekend. I will try again in the future.

I have also tried to organise training with Nigel Atkins at £20 per head but there has not been enough uptake.

I would like to inform clubs that if they are organising training for their own members and are happy to train other clubs, there is funding available to cover expenses. Please contact me.



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On BCA news

Andrew Atkinson has stood down as chair of the training committee, Steve Gray is now standing in until he is formally appointed at the AGM.

There is a proposal to BCA AGM to change the training committee to a working group. This could have implications, watch this space.

EW Could DK and AA formulate their view and forward them to the executive. We will then forward this as guidance to the CSCC members. CSCC could then circulate this guidance to their members to inform them before voting at the BCA AGM vote.

EW The BCA AGM is on the 24 October which will be before our next Meeting

JD Could I request a cave photography course?

11 BCA Representative

Dear All,

I attended the BCA council meeting on the 15th July The minutes have ben circulated by email and are on the BCA website.

The main point to note is that the proposal to increase the BCA subs was passed.

Following strong representations by two clubs concerned about the effect of the increase on membership renewals after all the difficulties of covid, I made these points to Council and asked for the proposal to be deferred for a year. However, the proposal was carried. In view of these representations, I abstained.

The next meeting in two weeks' time is basically to ensure all the ducks are in a row regarding the AGM.

Best

Linda Wilson

EW I would like the reps to take notice that at this AGM there is going to be an election for chairman. This is important for the direction of BCA, so I would like the clubs to take this back to their members and persuade them to read up on the details, make up their own minds, and most of all vote.

GM David rose is supposed to be running some hustings between the two candidates for president. LJW If this takes place I will forward it to CSCC.

12 Webmasters Report

DC Calenders are being shared out so the officers can fill in the dates.

News items are now being published on individual pages, and these pages will have tags added to the top right corner. If you click on a tag, the site will search for and display all pages with that tag. This should make navigation easier.



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13 AOB

13.1 LJW Charterhouse top sink

An appeal for help, on Tuesday 21 September, the cavers are clearing out charterhouse top sink. This sink takes the majority of the waste in the winter but collects sticks and leaves in the summer, if it blocks the stream will potentially flood the gorge again. I appreciate it is a week day but we are working with the Somerset Wildlife Trust.

Please contact Linda

PH, I'll send this request out on social media, could I have some photographs after the event.

14 Forthcoming events

| | | |
|----------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Tuesday | 21 September | Clearing Charterhouse top sink |
| Sunday | 24 October | BCA AGM |
| Saturday | 20 November | JRat Awards, Hunters |

15 CSCC Significant dates

Note. This is a list of important dates in the current CSCC year, which runs AGM to AGM. The dates of the AGM, notifications and deadlines are defined in the constitution, this is a reminder. Dates of meetings are initially decided at the AGM however they can be changed. Please consult the website diary.

| | | | | |
|---------|---------------|-------|--|------|
| Monday | 6 Sept 2021 | 19:00 | GM | Zoom |
| Friday | 19 Nov 2021 | 19:00 | GM | Zoom |
| Tuesday | 1 Feb 2022 | 23:59 | Notification to members of upcoming AGM <u>This is the notification</u> | |
| Monday | 14 Feb 2022 | 19:00 | GM | Zoom |
| Tuesday | 15 March 2022 | 23:59 | Deadline for AGM nominations | |
| Friday | 18 March 2022 | 19:00 | Deadline for AGM constitutional amendments | |
| Friday | 1 April 2022 | 23:59 | Notification to members of AGM nominations | |
| Friday | 13 May 2022 | 19:00 | AGM | Zoom |

Meeting duration 1:48

Corrections