

Chair's Report

I would like to thank all the officers for all the hard work they have put in this year. I don't feel that I have been as present as I should have been with a new job starting pretty much as I took on the role of Chair and disappearing to India on expedition for almost two months didn't help. So it was great to see the tasks picked up and carried forwards.

I want to continue focusing on recruiting new, younger volunteers to CSCC. It is difficult but important for the continuation of an effective CSCC. Hopefully we'll be able to appoint some assistant officers at this meeting.

As a reminder, I'm proposing that each officer is shadowed by an assistant. This has the advantage of continuity. Much knowledge of past events, agreements and actions is in people's heads, all too easily lost if that person moves on. It also has the additional advantage of sharing the high work load some roles have. How the work is shared out between officer and assistant would be up to them. I would give the assistant one specific task and that is to jointly present the officer's report at meetings. This'll gently ensure they are engaged with the role.

David Cooke
May 2025

Treasurer's Report 2024

2024's Accounts appear below. I had failed to recall that the Honorary Scrutineer had changed for this year, so these have only just been sent over to our new scrutineer for checking. My apologies.

Notes from the accounts:

Last year's BCA claim for core expenditure was paid in full.

Wayne Starsmore's C&A travel related expenses were kindly donated to the CSCC.

For Expenditure, a missing payment for resin from 2022 was paid, as well as further resin purchased in 2024. Other expenses as listed.

Finance Group Meeting

I met with the BCA treasurer recently, as well as with the other regional treasurers. The CSCC claim for £187.81 for 2024 was approved at that meeting, subject to the accounts being scrutinised.

The DCA claim was approved at £3831.12

The CNCC claim was approved at £6572.00

The DCUC claim was approved at £335.66

The CW/OC claim was approved at £1411.55

Total BCA Income for 2024 was £140,953

Total Expenditure was £146,723

Charitable Donations came to £15,004

The BCA loss for the year was £20,773

Total Reserves of the BCA including creditors and accruals due within 1 year - £143,757

2025 Spending

So far in 2025, £220 has been spent on costs towards the Event at the end of May. Our spending is going to be well below the budget I proposed to the BCA last year. For planning purposes, please let me know of any potential CSCC spending in the short to medium term.

Tom Harrison May 2025

CSCC Accounts Summary 2024

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

		2024	2023
		£	£
Income			
Subs		30.00	30.00
Donations	note 1	74.75	-
Net Interest		2.28	1.46
BCA Funding	note 2	836.00	5,188.00
Sundry		-	-
Somerset Community Fund Grant for Maine's Barn		-	2,000.00
Gate Sale		-	100.00
Key Sales		30.75	40.00
Total income		973.78	7,359.46
Expenditure	note 3	Core	
Officer Travel Expenses		74.75	74.75
Web Server		23.07	23.07
Resin		64.99	64.99
C&A - Harridge Wood		25.00	25.00
2022 Photography Course		-	50.00
Singing River Gate		-	800.00
Maillons		-	36.00
Maine's Barn Renovation		-	1,984.50
Total Expenditure		187.81	2,870.50
Surplus / (Deficit)		785.97	4,488.96

Statement of Funds Available as at 31st December 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Balance brought forwards from previous year		
Current account	4,654.17	206.67
Reserve account	147.42	105.96
Cash	-	-
	4,801.59	312.63
Surplus / (Deficit)	785.97	4,488.96
Balance carried forwards to next year	5,587.56	4,801.59
At 31st December		
Current account	5427.11	4,654.17
Reserve account	160.45	147.42
Cash	-	-
Funds Available	5,587.56	4,801.59

Notes

1. Donated officer travel expenses £74.75.
2. Prior year's BCA claim paid in full.
3. Core expenditure is claimable from BCA. The 2024 claim will be £187.81.

At the year end, membership was 40 clubs of which 39 were also BCA members.

Conservation & Access Report - CSCC Meeting 9th May 2025

Please find below the Conservation & Access Officer's Report. This covers the period since the last meeting in February 2025.

AGM Report

It has been a busy, and somewhat frustrating, year for C&A activities. The Longleat Access Agreement has taken many, many hours of work and significant progress has been made but it is still not in place. While taking significantly less effort, the Harridge Woods agreement has been signed off but isn't operational as it is awaiting the CSCC to finalise a permit web site. I am happy to continue in the role of C&A Officer for another year.

Longleat

A second draft of the Access Agreement was submitted to Longleat at the start of February. Their Land Agent decided to send the full agreement to Longleat's solicitors for review, rather than just the two clauses that were expected. Despite answering their solicitors queries promptly, we are still awaiting the outcome of the legal review.

Lionel's Hole



A report of a boulder movement in Lionel's Hole was received and a subsequent inspection took place. At the top of the Second Duck Bypass, where there is a T-Junction, two large boulders had moved. There is a large triangular flake stood upright (in the background of the photo) and a large squarer boulder on the floor in front of it (mid-left in the photo). Formally, these boulders created a low roof in this area but it is now possible to stand up. The "flake" boulder is securely wedged in its new position and can be passed with care. The squarer boulder has been "chocked" in place and is now unlikely to move further. The situation will be monitored to assess if any further work is required.

Harridge Woods

The Harridge Wood Nature Reserve access agreement is ready to go but is still waiting for the CSCC to complete the work required to provide an online permit system.

Goatchurch Cavern



A report was received that arrows had been chalked onto the walls of Goatchurch Cavern. In order to prevent the potential for proliferation, they were promptly removed. Many thanks to the MCG for arranging this.

Pressure Washers

The Wealden Cave and Mine Society have borrowed the CSCC Pressure Washers, along with a supply of Pig Tail Risers and Conservation Tape for a clean-up project. We look forward to receiving a report of their achievements in due course.

Thrupe Lane Swallet

A very large boulder appears to be on the move in Butt's Chamber. The boulder sits on the slope between Upper and Lower Butt's chamber and has the potential of blocking access to Bridge Rift and the route into the cave from Perseverance Pot. An inspection visit is due to take place before the AGM meeting.

CSCC Access Guide

Many updates have been made to the CSCC Access Guide including:-

- Updating the good will fess for Eastwater, Northhill Swallet and Sludge Pit to £2.
- Updating the bat season closure date for the Fairy Cave Quarry caves.
- Revising the parking location for Welsh's Green Swallet.
- Updating the Loxton Cave \ Loxton Quarry Cave access information.

Singing River Mine

The Singing River Mine access agreement has been in place since October 2023 and is running smoothly. Visitor number are as follows:-

Year	Trips	No Cavers	Notes
2023	8	37	Started in Oct
2024	11	72	
2025	4	27	Year to date
	23	136	

Wookey Hole Cave

The access agreement with Wookey has run without issue over the past three months, having been started in December 2022. Visitor numbers are as follows:-

Year	Trips	No Cavers	Notes
2022	3	18	Started in Dec
2023	39	190	
2024	28	153	
2025	10	57	Year to date
	80	418	

Future Priorities

In the coming months I will be concentrating on the following priorities:-

- 1) Agree a formal access agreement for the Caves of Cheddar Gorge
- 2) Arrange and complete the training of Wardens for the Cheddar Caves
- 3) Finalise the access arrangements (on-line facilities) for Harridge Woods
- 4) Discuss and agree the required Cow Hole entrance work with the landowner

If anyone has anything else they would like progressing then please let me know.

Wayne Starsmore
C&A Officer
CSCC

CSCC BCA REPRESENTATIVES REPORT TO THE 2025 AGM

BCA is working well under its new executive. Rostam Namaghi as chair runs meetings in a focused and forward-looking manner, and is putting a lot of thought into how to take the organization forward. Aiden Kuhlmann, is an efficient secretary, with minutes and agendas appearing in a timely manner. Chris Bolton is proving to be an excellent treasurer with a solid grasp of the finances. Zac Woodford as Publications and Information Officer is working on an up date to the guidelines for university and college clubs.

This year's AGM will be a hybrid one and I'll reserve judgment on how that works until afterwards, but my experience of hybrid meetings hasn't been positive so far.

The migration of BCA's membership system to an external provider, JustGo, has proved successful, and the feedback so far has been positive. Katie Eavis worked hard to ensure a smooth transition.

In the coming year, we can expect much discussion within BCA about the possibility of converting the organization into a company limited by guarantee. I think this is a sensible idea in principle, but as ever, the devil is in the detail and a lot of work will be involved.

I have attended all Council meetings on CSCC's behalf in the past year and have submitted a report to each one, even though this isn't obligatory, but I think it's a good opportunity to keep BCA informed of the work CSCC does, particularly regarding access. I have attended all CSCC Meetings (I think!) and have given most of my reports in writing (apologies for being late with this one). In addition, I volunteered for a Business Risk Exercise being conducted by Chris Bolton as treasurer on the level of reserves being held by BCA, which involved looking in detail at the work BCA does and the risks it runs, plus the steps taken to mitigate these risks. I felt that my background meant I could offer thoughts and a business perspective, which is what I have done.

Whilst I am willing to stand again, I am very keen to follow up Cookie's idea of officer 'shadowing' and would very much welcome someone to work with me in this way as that I can begin a phased handover of responsibility. The job is not onerous.

As ever, if you have any questions or issues relating to BCA, please contact me and I'll do my best to respond/help where I can.

Linda Wilson
BCA Representative
9.5.25

Training Officers Report

AGM report:

No training conducted. One request received however they already had supported agreed, I'm not sure what support was wanted? I offered to support where else I could but nothing else received. I do not wish to continue as Training Officer; although I would like to continue with the organising of this Cave the Sun event to take it through to completion.

Cave the Sun Update:

Planning progressing well, most elements are now in place. The village hall has been booked and the cup designs agreed, with a supplier found. Cobbs of Cheddar have pencilled in the hog roast at £8.50 a head, and we will be purchasing desserts at £1 a head from Costco on the day. David Cooke is currently looking into an alternative for the hog roast, which may come in cheaper.

For the day activities, no one has emailed to take part in the cave the sun element, and thus it is currently likely this will be cancelled. MCRA has agreed to put an activity in the afternoon and a facebook event has been set up, this looks to be more popular with people responding either going or interested.

Current tasks are to create the playlist and to complete a risk assessment, both of these lie with Dave Keegan. As part of the risk assessment, we would need to identify who is going who is first aid qualified.

Dave King has agreed to run the bar, and has got the agreements for purchasing drinks. We do not know however how many people to expect, which is a problem for how much to order.

Finances:

Already paid: £220 (village Hall)

Needs approving: £310 (250 cups for sale), Hog roast (£8.50* no. of people). Volunteers expected to require 5* meals (2 general and 3 bar staff), and 6* mugs; cost of £50

To be claimed on expenses: drinks from bar sales (tbc), desserts (£200), cleaning supplies/sundries (Max £100)

Expected income. Ticket sales @ £15pp (reduced due to change with cups no longer included in ticket price), cup sales @ £2 per cup, bar profits (to be split between cave rescue and CSCC, split tbc in conjunction with overall profit).

Issues:

The current issue is the lack of people who have signed up, currently we have sold 4 tickets. Whilst I appreciate this could be due to it being a future date, it would be useful to get an understanding of whether we're expecting lots of people to come, or why there has been a lack of sign ups? The current decision required is on whether to order food/drinks working on the assumption that there will be x number of people turn up, or to cancel elements due to lack of assured numbers.

A huge thank you to the volunteers who have been supporting the organising, and for the club reps for helping with pushing the information out.

Dave Keegan
CSCC Training Officer

Communications Officer's Report: Peter Burgess

I have continued to put out a newsletter every three months. I have changed the publication dates to post-date CSCC meetings as this allows prompt dissemination of matters discussed and agreed by Council. My thanks to Cookie for stepping in for one of the issues in 2024.

Regular channels for communications are as follows:

- CSCC newsletter
- CSCC email subscribers by MailChimp
- CSCC Club Rep email list.
- CSCC Facebook page
- UKCaving website

I am happy to continue in the role of Comms Officer for a further year.

Peter Burgess
CSCC Communications Officer
May 2025

Equipment Officer Report

The anchor at the top of the ladder in GB has been replaced and on a separate trip anchors have been placed on the devils elbow end drop as the stal that was been used is becoming worn out.

Also an anchor on the fourth pitch of Rhino rift has been removed. Lots of the old dangerous rope had been remove. As well as the back up natural not been the best, the rope was breakable by pulling on it. The pitch needs a spit replacing, however this could not be done on the trip as my short drill bit was broken. A new one has been purchased and a return trip to complete the work will be undertaken. There is currently a hanger in the spit.

Thanks to Matty Dredge for his help with these.

Longwood Valley Sink has many pitches and traverses. One of the traverses has been partially anchored with IC anchors, the remaining will be undertaken in the future.

Thanks To Haydon Sanders for help with these.

Both Matty and Haydon are now trained to place anchors.

We are now down to the last few IC anchors, so I have contacted CNCC and asked for a batch of 30.

Andrew Atkinson

May 2025

Webmaster's Report

In the past year I've updated, maintained and supported the various aspects of CSCC's IT. The webserver, website, access guide, calendar, email, mailing lists (Mailman, MailChimp), etc.

The new Harridge Woods access agreement requires a permit system similar to the one I wrote for the Charterhouse Caving Company. It has turned into more work than I was expecting but will be ready soon. It will be available at <https://hw-permits.csc.org.uk>.

Moving the website away from the BCA server to Krystal, the new Internet provider, has been delayed but will happen soon.

Moving the website away from the BCA server to Krystal, the new Internet provider, continues. This has been delayed whilst a replacement for the Mailman 2 mailing list software was evaluated. That has now been done. Work is ongoing.

It was pointed out to me that the CSCC's postal address did not appear anywhere on the website. That has now been fixed. It appears on an updated Contact Us page.

The general principle I aim to follow when developing the website is to enable updates to be done by others as well as the webmaster. Too many website rely on just the webmaster for updates and then stagnate when the webmaster is overworked or loses enthusiasm. So for example I'm very pleased to have the Secretary posting the Minutes, the C&A Officer updating the Access Guide, the Comms. Officer posting news items and the Equipment Officer maintaining the anchor placement pages.

Any suggestions for improving the website or other aspects of IT are always welcome.

Despite taking on the role of Chairman I'm happy to stand again for IT Officer.

David Cooke
May 2025