



# Council of Southern Caving Clubs

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

## General Meeting 06 November 2010, Hunters Lodge Inn, Priddy

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Graham Price (Chair/Cerberus Rep) GP	Stu Gardiner (BEC Rep)
Hayley Clark (Secretary/MCG Rep) HC	Mark Williams (BCA Officer) MW
Alan Gray (ACG Rep) AG	Darrel Instrell (MNRC Rep) DI
Alan Dempster (Avon Scouts Rep) AD	Mike Richardson (MCG rep) MR
Les Williams (C&A Officer/WCC Rep) LW	
David G Cooke (Webmaster/ ChCC Rep) DGC	
Faye Litherland (Equipment Officer/BEC Rep) FL	
Aubrey Newport (WCC Obs) AN	
Dave Cundy (Treasurer/SBSS Rep) DC	
Alan Butcher (SMCC Rep) AB	

Meeting started at 10.07am.

### 1) Minutes of the previous meeting (31.07.10)

#### 1.1 7.1 Wording to be changed to read: -

AN has been through the accounts and DGC has published them. Seem to be straightforward; only comment is that the treasurer had been making donations as he paid for any **overdrawn** bank charges out of his own pocket. 2006-2008 accounts were proposed by CP and seconded by LW. AD proposed thanks to DGC and AN for their hard work in sorting out the accounts.

Accepted as amended proposed DGC, seconded AD accepted nem com.

### 2) Actions from previous meeting: -

4.1 Update on Geopark (GP take under item 6)

5.1 Contacting of clubs whose emails bounce back (HC take under item 7)

5.4 Update on bolts in Black Hole Swildons. **Ongoing ACTION FL & DGC**

5.5 Bolts in Rhino Rift, revised topo and list of caves needing topos (FL & DGC take under item 11)

5.6. Update on entrance to Priddy Green Sink (LW take under item 9)

5.7 Note to be added to website reminding people to change in barn and not Priddy Green when visiting Swildons. **DONE**

7.3 Account taxed at source, needs changing (DC take under item 8)

8.1 Cuckoo Cleaves add note to the website as a general reminder about the possibility of CO2 being present in any cave on Mendi. **DONE**

8.2 Compton Martin Ochre Mine. LW to measure up for replacement gate in near future. (LW take under item 9)

8.6 Bolt on the back door to Box Mines has dropped and therefore not being shut by people allowing access to anyone again. LW to have a look and possibly ask Darkplaces to organise fixing it. (LW take under item 9)

8.7 FL reported that on a recent trip to Brownes Folly, she was very concerned over some very enthusiastic cleaning of graffiti as by cleaning off some modern graffiti the old miners drawings underneath had also been removed. LW to put note on the website advising people to be careful if removing graffiti. **Ongoing ACTION LW**



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## 3) Other Matters arising from the previous meeting

**3.1** GP raised concerns that we still do not know exactly how many members the CSCC has and that there is no comprehensive contact list. We have an up to date list of clubs/groups in both the BCA and CSCC from Glenn Jones but not of clubs who are not in the BCA. Problem is how to administer this, used to be treasurers job as they collected fees and could keep the records up together, however with only one club apparently paying who is not in the BCA the current treasurer has no dealings with the membership list. HC offered to try to sort this help with help from others Officers as necessary. **ACTION HC**

## 4) Chairman's Report

**4.1** (4.1 of previous minutes) No new information on Geopark but lots of uncertainty surrounding this and general future of the AONB management. The main funders of the AONB are Natural England however Natural England are facing up to 30% cuts and are proposing many job losses and the selling of land such as nature reserves. It is not yet known how these cuts, and cuts by the local Councils, will affect funding of the AONB. There is to be some restructuring of Natural England with the loss of regional management and reversion to the past system of local teams managed from head office. This may lead to some changes to the way management of SSSI's is viewed as there are major differences around the country and therefore we need to monitor the situation, GP to keep an eye on the situation and to inform if any action is needed from CSCC. **ACTION GP**

**4.2** New barriers have been installed on Blackdown on the bridleway leading to Rods Pot/Reeds Cavern. Vehicles can no longer drive to the caves and can get no further up the track than the UBSS hut. This gives some concerns over access for rescue purposes. GP has attended a meeting of the Blackdown Users Group and made a formal request to the AONB for an emergency key to the barriers to be held by MCR. GP had pointed out the problems of lack of parking for cavers vehicles and possible blocking of the tracks but they did not seem concerned about this. It would be the responsibility of the AONB service to provide signs if they thought it necessary. GP to put item on website regarding the barriers and lack of parking for caves in this area. **ACTION GP**

**4.3** The final part of the Minerals Core Strategy has been out for comments. This part was regarding building stones, GP commented on behalf of CSCC.

## 5) Secretary's Report

**5.1** (5.1 of previous minutes) still striving for a bounce free email list for all club reps, HC has made good progress although had some responses asking who/what the CSCC were, AD proposed adding the website address to the header of all agendas and minutes, this was thought a great idea, now done. HC thanked Robin Weare for his help with tracking down some email addresses. Item left ongoing to combine with collating a complete membership list (see item 3.1 of these minutes). **ACTION HC**

## 6) Treasurer's Report.

**6.1** Accounts for 2009-2010 are now ready for scrutinising, AN to scrutinise. **ACTION AN**

**6.2** DGC in process of finalising claims to BCA. CSCC are owed approximately £1500.

**6.3** DC to go to bank to sort out tax as account currently taxed at source and needs to be changed (item 7.3 of previous meeting) **ACTION DC**

## 7) Conservation & Access Officer's Report

**7.1** (5.6 of previous minutes). Entrance to Priddy Green Sink has been repaired, thanks to Robin Maine for his help (gate still needs a service).

**7.2** Cuckoo Cleaves signs regarding the CO2 have been made and are ready to be fitted.



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**7.3** AN has fitted an extra concrete ring to the entrance of Cuckoo Cleaves to stop the smaller animals falling down. The fence around the entrance has also been repaired as the wire had apparently been cut. The Landowner is happy with the work that has been done.

**7.4** AN pointed out that the description on how to get to Cuckoo Cleaves is out of date and therefore incorrect in Mendip Underground, AN to provide up-to-date description for Rich Whitcombe (RW) for next years reprint of Mendip Underground and send to DGC to update the website. It was also agreed that LW contact RW to discuss the descriptions for access to all caves for the new Mendip Underground to avoid using landmarks, features or specifics that may frequently change and become inaccurate over time. **ACTION AN and LW**

**7.5** Compton Martin Ochre Mine (8.2 of previous minutes), gate has been made but yet to be fitted, ongoing

**7.6** (8.6 of previous minutes) Darkplaces are sorting out the bolt on the back door to Box Mines

**7.7** LW approached by Landowner of Viaduct Sink who was concerned about the condition of the entrance. It appears local vandals had removed the gate, thrown it down the entrance shaft and then re-covered the entrance with twigs. Obvious concerns raised due to the dangers for children and livestock. The Landowner has secured the entrance and there is currently no access. However he is prepared to reopen the cave giving CSCC access if the entrance is made safe. The meeting agreed the expenditure of £300 towards materials to do this.

**7.8** Charterhouse Cave diggers have approached CSCC for funding for digging a tunnel to bypass to protect the Frozen Cascade. LW has checked with BCA that it is for conservation and not just digging. The tunnel would allow progress to be made for diggers and also to allow more of the cave to be opened for tourist trips whilst protecting the formations. The meeting agreed to give £200 towards the project. It was noted that the diggers should also contact the CCC for them to contribute the other half of the money required.

## **8) Training Officer's Report**

No report received

## **9) Equipment Officer's Report.**

**9.1** A meeting of the Equipment & Techniques Committee was held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2010. Overall the meeting was felt to be positive and FL felt that there was common ground to be explored in respect of CSCC rejoining the BCA Anchor Placement Scheme in the future. During the meeting, members of the Equipment and Techniques Committee voted to request the return of the equipment and any anchors currently held by CSCC for anchor placement. CSCC acknowledges this request.

**9.2** Since the above meeting, it has been decided that the voting structure of standing committees needs to be looked into.

**9.3** (5.5 of previous minutes) FL has spoken to Andy Sparrow, he is currently undergoing a project to revise all current topos and create new ones for caves without one. FL to work with Andy to produce these rather than duplicate work. The copy write will be Andy Sparrows but will be in the public domain and therefore can be put on the CSCC website. As these become available for each cave, bolt numbers can be added to them.

**9.4** On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November an anchor placement demonstration will take place at 10am at Westbury Sub Mendip Quarry. Following this a practical session on anchor placement will take place in Rhino Rift during the afternoon of 20<sup>th</sup> November. This is open to all cavers who will be willing to place anchors, people will need to attend both sessions to be added to the list of installers. Permission has been granted to take an over sized party into Rhino for this occasion. Rhino Rift will be closed to all other cavers from the 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> November to allow the resin to dry.

FL requested £100 to purchase resin and a chain to use in Rhino. This was agreed.



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**9.5 FL** suggested that the CSCC look into purchasing a new drill for the near future. Need to get costs and ideas on the best drill to buy.

**9.6 FL** has received 2 requests for anchor placement, one for Shatter Pot in Swildons Hole proposed installer DGC. The second for Parfitts, proposed installer GP. Both were agreed following attendance at the anchor placement demonstration on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

## **10) BCA Rep's Report**

**10.1** All resolutions in the recent ballot were passed

**10.2** BCA have an artificial cave as seen at Hidden earth this year, could be used at future caving events.

**10.3** White Nose Syndrome in Bats does exist in Europe but as yet is causing no real issues

**10.4** BCA need a list of "Court ready technical experts", these are cavers with specialist technical caving expertise who could be trained to be witnesses in court if ever needed. However the meeting decided further clarification was needed on this as two people who attended the meeting had a different impression of exactly what this means. **ACTION DGC**

## **11) Webmaster's Report**

DGC still happy to give training to any Officers on how to update the website

## **12) Forthcoming Events.**

26-28 November 2010 CHECC Forum 2010 Austwick

## **13) A O B**

None

**14)** Date of the next meeting to be held at 10 am at the Hunters Lodge Inn, Priddy.  
Saturday 12 February 2011

Meeting Closed: 12:03