



Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the British Caving Association

www.csccl.org.uk

Minutes of EGM / AGM - Saturday 26 Sept 2020 Zoom Meeting

Draft 12-10-2020

1 Attendance

Voting Attendees

Alan Dempster	Avon Scouts	AD	
Alan Gray	ACG	AG	
Andrew Mcleod	EUSS	AM	
Barry Wilkinson	White Rabbit CG	BW	
Dave Cooke	Cheddar CC	DC	Treasurer
Dave King	MNRC (arrived late)	DK	
Estelle Sandford	BEC	ES	
Frank Tully	WCC	FT	Secretary
Graham Price	CSS	GP	C&A
Idris Williams	Shropshire Scouts	IW	
Judi Durber	EECC	JD	
Linda Wilson	UBSS	LJW	BCA rep
Peter Burgess	WCMS	PB	
Tim Ball	SMCC	TB	

Non Voting

Andy Sparrow	Observer		
Aubrey Newport	Observer	AN	
Babs Price	Observer		
Brian Heworth	Observer (dropped out quickly, connection issues)		
Ed Waters	Observer	EW	Chair of meeting
Graham Mullan	Observer		
Malcolm Foyle	Observer		
Phil Rowsall	Observer (BCA Chairman)	PR	
Sam Richards	Observer		

23 in total. Dave King arrived after Brian Hepworth dropped out, so never more than 22.

2 Apologies for Absence

None

Election of Chairman for meeting.

CSCC currently does not have an elected chairman.

Ed Waters volunteered to be chair for the meeting

Proposed GP, Seconded Babs Price, Passed Unanimous.

3 Approval of minutes from GM 24th Nov 2018

Proposed EW, Seconded LJW, Accepted Unanimous, Minutes approved.

4 Chairman's report

CSCC does not currently have a chairman



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5 Secretary's report

Frank Tully

Nothing to report beyond what is in the agenda.

6 Conservation & access officer's report

Graham Price

Report published on website

BW thanks GP for a comprehensive report.

Questions

6.1 Masebury Access has not been sorted out yet.

Funding

New Expenditure for Shippam £1800

Swildons Barn £1000

Manor Farm budget increased to £3000

Proposal to accept expenditure EW, Seconded DC, Vote Passed Unanimous

Proposal to accept the report LJW, Seconded JD, Vote Accepted Unanimous

PR Would it be possible for GP to write some words for the BCA newsletter.

GP to write a few words and forward to BCA communications officer.

7 Honorary treasurer's report

Dave Cooke

Draft accounts presented to the meeting and published on website.

Treasurer's report published on website prior to meeting.

A draft set of account for 2019 was circulated for the July 15th meeting. A copy is available on the website. The Independent Examiner has now approved the accounts for 2019. My thanks go to Aubrey Newport, especially for auditing the accounts so speedily.

Virtually no expenditure in the accounts would suggest no work is being done. This is not the case. It is due to Officers failing to claim their expenses.

All the BCA Claims are paid up to date. Once the 2019 Accounts are approved, that claim can go forward to BCA.

Our thanks should go to Pete Glanville for his donation of £200 towards the powered sprayers for cleaning speleothems. This is from the surplus on the sales of his Reservoir Hole book (available from Pete).

This meeting sets the CSCC subscription. This is payable by CSCC member clubs that are not members of BCA. The subscription has been at £15 for many, many years. I would like to propose that it is set to £30. I note that membership of BCA for a club is between £25 and £70.

As last year, I feel it is time for me to step down as Treasurer for a newer fresher face.

Sept 2020 David Cooke



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Proposal to accept the treasurers report, GP, seconded LJW, vote passed unanimous,

DC The CSCC subscription for non BCA clubs is £15 and has been BCA was formed. BCA clubs are paying between £25 and £70. I propose that we increase the subscription amount to £30.

BW The White Rabbit CG is the only club in CSCC who is not a BCA member and we see no point in joining BCA because most of our members are members of other clubs. I do not object to the increase.

DC proposes the CSCC subscription should be £30, Seconded GP,

Vote Shropshire Scouts Against, Avon Scouts Abstention, Remainder For, Passed.

Approval of the accounts for 2019

Proposed LJW, Seconded BW, Vote passed unanimous.

8 Training officer's report

Alan Butcher

No report submitted to meeting.

Phil Rowsall Dave Keegan would like to be training officer in the next year.

9 Equipment officer's report

Andrew Atkinson

I thought that when I heard nothing CSCC had accepted my resignation, but nothing ever appears in the minutes, but then again very few or my reports dis so who is to really know what is going on with CSCC.

As you are contacting me I take it that I am still in post, in which case I should really get on with things.

Graham Price has been told on more than one occasion that we do not have any CSCC anchors and none are currently approved. CSCC agreed years ago that the Bolt product spiral ones, did not meet the modern standard of cave conservation and should not be used, it would be an act of vandalism to place these, the same as destroying stal or mud banks. It was the fact that Graham Price told me that he had been authorised to place the spiral anchors with no other approved placer there, to which I said if this was done there was no point having a conservation officer and I personally did not want to be involved in such an organisation.

Please can it be stated in the minutes that spiral anchors were not placed and will not be sanctioned by CSCC in the future. I have also reported the lack of anchor situation in my reports, of which I believe I only missed one until I thought I was no longer in post.

The procedure to place anchors is to fill in the form and then that will go through a CSCC meeting with the Equipment Officer making a recommendation. I can see how Graham Price is frustrated with this procedure, after the submission for the anchors on the 40 were ignored twice with no comment. Also after CSCC asked me to report on the anchors and replace if needed in Eastwater and I got permission from the owner, I was asked for a more detailed report, although to the life of me I have no idea what the addition detail required was.

Once the anchors have been approved 2 trained installers should then visit the site and decide on the position. Currently the installers are Chris Binding and myself. Graham has done the training and it is pretty basic stuff, so it would be easy to revalidate him, it could be done at the same time as placing the anchors and kill 2 birds.

I do have some anchors that I paid for while Fay was still Equipment, they are installed in Reservoir and Swildons 40, I have done tests on them at Fairy quarry with Chris Binding and Rob



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Adams help, I should publish the results, but with CSCC not approving placements I have little intensive.

Does anyone know if anyone has proceeded further with the plan with Les Williams to fix Star shaft, which I passed on when I thought I was no longer in post.

Also where and how do I access the document store for CSCC, I have asked this multiple times, it would be good to check and amend where needed the anchor stuff.

Andrew Atkinson September 2020

EW IF C&A is the most important thing CSCC do Equipment is a close second. We need to get on with this. Thanks for Andrew clarifying the situation.

10 BCA rep report

Report of BCA council meeting 9 August 2020 is published in the appendix 2 of the Agenda.

EW I have attended the last two BCA council meetings, the new BCA council has made great improvements.

LJW We need to answer the question, what do CSCC club reps want the BCA representative to do?

LJW In light of the number of proposals to BCA council I have been asked if we could withdraw our proposals.

PR In light of the issues that the recent changes to the BCA constitution are causing, BCA council has put together a working party to write and submit a new constitution and manual of operations to the 2021 BCA AGM

EW Along with the CSCC proposals there were a lot of other proposals, properly discussing these at the BCA AGM will not be possible in a reasonable time. Most of these proposals are being considered by the BCA working party for constitutional change. The current constitution is a filibusters delight.

DC I think it would be a good idea to show good faith and put the CSCC proposals on hold. None of our proposals are time critical.

LJW I propose that we put on hold all the CSCC proposals to the BCA AGM.

Seconded DC, Passed Unanimous

LJW what level of detail is required in the report from the BCA Rep's report?

GP This is the first time we have had a detailed report about what happened at the BCA council.

GP proposed a vote to accept the BCA Rep's report, Seconded IW, Passed Unanimous.

11 Webmasters report

Dave Cooke

DC In the near future BCA ma no longer have the capacity to run our website. At the moment things are looking OK however if things change quickly what does the meeting want me to do?

GM What is the cost of running our website on a commercial web service provider?

DC For our usage around £70 per year however this is a cost which we can claim back from BCA.

DC If the situation changes quickly I could host it on my personal web server.

AN Is this your own physical server?



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DC It is physically in Germany.

DC The issue is I would hold all the passwords so if there is some sort of issue with me CSCC could have a problem. I would like the chairman to hold the passwords, even if he does not know what to do with them he can gain access for someone who does.

BW We should have a UK based commercial webserver.

GP Are there timescales for the move from BCAs webserver?

DC Nothing is imminent I just want to plan this in advance.

EW If there is an issue with BCA's physical web service we can move to DC's personal server as an interim measure.

JD proposed to accept the webmasters report, Seconded GD, Passed Unanimous.

12 Regional registry officer's report

Alan Gray

I cannot see the point of why we have a regional registry officer as I have not needed to do anything for the last 3 AGM's.

13 AOB

13.1 CRoW Section 25/26 Exceptions and preparatory work.

EW There is an ongoing court case and it is possible that the current Natural England interpretation of CRoW Act could change rapidly. Access bodies therefore need to prepare for this eventuality.

DC Bob Mehew had already done a lot of work at BCA, so is a good point of contact.

EW CSCC are only responsible for a few caves, such as Corral Cave

LJW we should contact Natural England, they are generally very busy so we should start the dialogue in advance of the deadline.

GP I will contact Natural England. We need a list of sites which require section 25/26 exceptions before we approach them, I will get this together.

13.2 XXXXXXXXXX Shaft

DK XXXXXXXXXX shaft has a lid and is near a footpath but does not have a lock on the lid. It needs a CSCC lock.

13.3 Swildon's Changing Barn – Communications officer – Newsletter Editor

JD I have been informed that the Swildon's Changing Barn is out of action, and we have previously been asked not to change on the green. So currently we cannot go down Swildons. I have not heard any more information on this important issue, we need a communications officer.

DC I post to the mail list, website and facebook, However I only distribute material I am send. Perhaps what we really need is a newsletter editor who will go out and get stories.

EW This is a big subject and we really do need to look into this, is there anybody here who wants to do this job?

FT to add the post to communications officer to the next meeting agenda.

ES Communications officer should be part of the secretary's role.



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13.4 Student caving

Andrew McLeod asked a question of the Mendip clubs attending the meeting (Asked at the end of the meeting but recorded as part of AOB in the minutes)

It is likely that this Covid crisis is going to continue for some time. When student clubs are able to return to going caving they will not be able to stay anywhere overnight because currently the caving clubs with huts are closed to non-members. Could clubs consider opening up to student cavers?

EW This is an issue for all clubs which travel long distances to go caving.

EW Could club reps take this back to their clubs.

DC If clubs send in details of their opening policies I will publish them on the CSCC website.

EW If we do not do anything we risk losing a generation of cavers and many of the university clubs. This is an opportunity to welcome new cavers to the club scene.

14 Adoption of the new CSCC Constitution

The proposed new constitution has been published on the website, as has the existing constitution.

BW A number of members of the WRCG are not happy with the new constitution, but want a vote on it to clear up the delay in its adoption.

TB I have a lot of questions regarding it, and would like to postpone its adoption.

AN I am the only person here who was on the committee which drew up the new constitution. I would like the meeting to accept the new constitution and then clear up any issues at the next AGM.

ES Proposed that the meeting accepts the new constitution, Seconded GP,

Against 0, Abstention 4, For adoption 11, The new constitution has been adopted FT to update the website.

15 Election of Officers

Ed Waters has indicated his wish to stand as CSCC chairman, see Agenda for election statement.

Honorary Chairman	Ed Waters
Honorary secretary	Frank Tully
Honorary treasurer	Dave Cooke
Conservation and access	Graham Price
Training officer	Dave Keegan
BCA Rep	Linda Wilson
Webmaster	Dave Cooke

Vote on Block for approval of the new officers, Against 0, Abstentions 0, Passed Unanimous.

Committee to look at appointing an Equipment officer.

Aubrey Newport volunteered to be the Scrutineer for the 2020 accounts.



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16 Upcoming events

BCA AGM 11 October 2020 Zoom meeting with a maximum of 100 attendees.

The meeting will be live streamed on Facebook.

LJW there is an opportunity for a group rep, could the CSCC reps at the meeting take this back to the clubs and ask if any of their members wants to do this job.

Nominations need a proposer and a seconder to be forwarded by email to BCA secretary before the meeting deadline.

PR All BCA members have a vote, please take an interest and vote.

17 Dates of next meetings

- Friday 20 November 2020 (GM) 19:00
- Friday 12 February 2021 (GM) 19:00
- Friday 14 May 2021 (AGM) 19:00