

# COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS



A constituent member of the British Caving Association

## Minutes of the Open Meeting held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2008

Present		Apologies for Absence	
Alan Gray	Chairman	Steve King	BCA Rep
Carmen Smith	Secretary	David Cooke	Webmaster
Chris Whale	Treasurer	Les Williams	C & A Officer
Andrew Atkinson	Equipment/Bolting Officer	Alan Butcher	Training Officer
Graham Mullen	UBSS rep	Kevin Barlow	SMCC Rep
Chris Binding	SCG rep	Alan Dempster	Avon Scouts rep
Graham Price	CSS/WCC		

### Minutes Of the Previous Meetings

**D.C requested that the wording for the approval of anchor placements on Mendip be made clearer as it is a condition of the insurance policy that the regional council approves the placement.**

Actions From the previous Meetings	Status	Officer
<b>Replenish Conservation tape supplies</b>	Completed	C.B SCG rep
<b>Lost Cave of Loxton funding estimates</b>	Ongoing due to Catcotts original entrance being located. It is hoped securing this entrance will be substantially cheaper. The MCG rep also indicated the possible closeness of the already gated Loxton Quarry cave as another alternative to securing the cave	L.W
<b>Purchase further CSCC keys.</b>	Ongoing due to difficulties in locating suitable blanks.	L.W C.H and C.B
<b>Replace the frequently reported bolt at the top of the 20 in Swildons</b>	Completed - video to appear on CSCC website.(see bolting officer's report)	A.A, C.H, C.B
<b>Place eco hangers at Purple Pot Rods Pot to aid this popular through trip</b>	Completed/Ongoing ( <b>post meeting note, initially bolted as a pull through, further requests have been made and accepted to place further bolts making the pitch suitable for ladder and line also</b> )	A.A
<b>Complete the BCA funding request for Anchors placed in 2006</b>	Ongoing (see treasurer's report)	C.W
<b>Black Hole series Swildon's to be bolted</b>	Ongoing ( <b>post meeting note, all mendip bolting operations are temporarily delayed pending the arrival of more resin</b> )	A.A
<b>September Rift, Manor Farm to be bolted</b>	Completed.(see bolting officer's report)	A.A, C.B, C.S
<b>Star Shaft eco hangers, inclusion into BCA scheme assessing bolts at top of Shower Pot, Bath Swallet</b>	Ongoing	A.A

### Chairman's Report

**The chairman reported he will be standing down at the next AGM to be held in May. Another fine candidate will need to be sought.**

### Secretary's Report

DCA Circulars/agendas/Minutes Received.

Info received on the next BCA AGM.

General subs requests received from CSCC member clubs.

### Treasurers Report

#### Status

The Current Account stands at £409.32

As of 09.02.08

The main Account holds £3215.13

As of 09.02.08 (after the Cuckoo Cleaves owner was paid for the fencing)

Funding requests to BCA for 2006 bolting projects applied for.

Submitted for £108 subject to a few further details requested by BCA

Accounts for 2007 now ongoing. To be brought to the AGM

Ongoing

### Conservation and Access Officers Report

### Proposals

A request to underwrite the cost of concrete rings to secure an entrance into Fernhill was put forward. This is a new project to hopefully relocate the lost cave of Fernhill, in the Fairy cave quarry area of Mendip. It will be largely funded by Natural England and the Fairy Cave Committee, but is seeking CSCC support.

Proposed and unanimously accepted

Upper Canada Cave in Canada Coombe. The diggers in this area are working very closely with the land owner and locals to secure access and good working relations in a previously little known area of Mendip. It is hoped that CSCC funding will promote a good working relationship with the people involved and thus funding has been requested to secure this relatively minor cave. A lot of negotiations are currently underway with the landowners regarding securing access to this location.

Proposed and accepted subject to proper budgeting/cost estimates.

The landowner of Cuckoo Cleaves reminded the C & A Officer that he had not received the requested £540 for the fencing around the cave.

Post meeting note. C.W placed a cheque into the hands of C.S who made the treacherous journey to the Hunters Lodge that evening to hand deliver it to the owner....

### Equipment/Bolting Officers Report

### Action

September Rift – Eco hangers now installed

Website updated

Rods Pot Bolted for Pull through only, More hangers will be placed at a later date.

Website updated

Gough's Hangers have now been checked and are in Date.

Website to be updated

The hangers on Split rock need to be checked.

Andy Sparrow best contact as he knows where the bolts are on split rock, many placed there belong to climbers. C.S to action.

Star Shaft and Waterwheel eco hangers checked and passed.

C.B actioned. Website to be updated

Eco Hanger at Swildons 20 replaced.

Thrupe Lane (High Atlas and Black Hole series Swildons, still on list to do...

Awaiting for stocks of resin to arrive

### Training Officers Report

Nothing to report. Absent from meeting. **Post meeting note A.B is looking into training options for the Mendip 2008 event.**

### Webmasters Report

Action

D.C reports that he is working on a WIKI style CSCC website whereby others will be able to access and change the web pages in order to keep it more up to date...

### BCA Officers Report

Action

The BCA officer reports that due to commitments on his time he will be standing down at the next AGM.

D.C reports from the latest BCA meeting that there are now more up to date guidelines on the Child protection policy on the BCA website. At time of meeting it was subject to final approval.

### Any Other Business

It was brought to the CSCC's attention that a Memorial plaque had been placed on the Swildon's Blockhouse and subsequently removed. (by persons unknown). The information offered to the CSCC at the time of the meeting was that "no permission had been sought to the blockhouse owner"

The CSCC would like all members to refer to the old NCA policy (that has subsequently been adopted by the BCA) that refers to the placing of plaques at cave entrances.

*"The NCA disagrees with the placement of memorial plaques inside or immediately outside a cave. The placement of plaques represents both a physical and visible intrusion in an otherwise unspoilt environment that is part of our natural heritage. Additionally they may be a source of pollution and subject to vandalism. The only exception should be in the case of a death occurring underground where it is impossible to recover the body."*

This document can be found online at [www.caveinfo.org.uk/nca/canda/plaques.htm](http://www.caveinfo.org.uk/nca/canda/plaques.htm)

D.C requested a hard copy of the 2006 accounts be brought to the next meeting for viewing. (AGM)

### Forthcoming Events

Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> DCA AGM Monyash village hall

March 8<sup>th</sup> BCRA Cave Science Symposium

April 5<sup>th</sup> BCA AGM Baptist Hall, Alvechurch, Worcestershire

April 19<sup>th</sup> Caving Technical Symposium to be held in at the Hunters Lodge.

June 6/7/8<sup>th</sup> Mendip 2008 Cavers Fair. Les Williams organizing

### Dates of next meeting

17<sup>th</sup> May 2008 Hunters Lodge 10.30 am (Annual General Meeting)