



Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the British Caving Association

www.csccl.org.uk

Annual General Meeting - Saturday 9th May 2015

DRAFT MINUTES sent out 20th August 2015

1 Attendance

Voting Attendees

Alan Dempster	Avon Scouts Rep	AD	
Alan Gray	ACG Rep	AG	Regional Registry Officer
Dave Cooke	Cheddar Rep	DC	Treasurer
Dave King	MNRC Rep	DK	
Ed Waters	MCG Rep	EW	
Faye Litherland	Compass	FL	Equipment Officer
Graham Price	Cerberus SS Rep	GP	
Hannah Bennett	BEC Rep	HB	
Keith Batten	SMCC Rep	KB	
Les Williams	WCC Rep	LW	C&A Officer

Non-Voting Attendees

Alan Butcher	SMCC	AB	Training Officer
Aubrey Newport	WCC	AN	Webmaster
Barry Wilkinson		BW	Observer
Chris Binding	ACI/SPCC	CB	Observer
Frank Tully	WCC	FT	Secretary
James Begley	SMCC	JB	BCA Rep
Kate Lawrence	BEC	KL	Chair
Ray Deasy	MNRC	RD	Observer

2 Apologies for Absence

Idris Williams Shropshire Scouts Caving Team
Geoff Dommett

3 Approval of minutes from general meeting 8th November 2014

Proposal to approve the minutes as read LW, Seconded AB, Vote For 9 Abstentions 1,
The minutes were approved.

4 Actions from previous minutes

4.1 Changes to CSCC constitution regarding nominations for offices,

4.2 Changes to CSCC constitution;

(changes tasked to Hayley Clarke, Graham Price and Aubrey Newport at 2014 AGM)

AN The CSCC constitutional amendments are required to be with the secretary 6 weeks before the AGM. The secretary is obligated to distribute the proposed amendment to the members within 4 weeks of the AGM. No amendments have been submitted.

LW proposes we set up a sub-group to draft proposed changes to the constitution and bring these to next meeting. FL seconds this proposal.

Sub Group will consist of AN, FL, AB and Hayley Clark.



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4.3 Commercial caving and CSCC

Club reps were asked at last meeting, to ask bring to this meeting their clubs opinion regarding, how commercial caving should be represented in CSCC.

Proposal that we create a new post of 'Instructed caving officer'.

This post will represent the instructed caving sector. (Please note that officers of CSCC do not have a vote). Proposed FL, Seconded GP. Votes For 9, Abstentions 1. Passed.

Action on FT to write to ACI informing them that they now have a representative position on CSCC council and request that they sent a representative to future meetings.

5 Other matters arising from previous minutes

None

6 Chairman's report

Kate Lawrence

Kennels update,

The tank has now been installed and prefabricated temporary accommodation has been transported onto site.

Thanks everyone for their help through the year.

7 Honorary secretary's report

Frank Tully

None

8 Honorary treasurer's report

Dave Cooke

8.1 Retention of signed copies of previous years accounts.

Proposal that CSCC contact British Caving Library regarding them holding the signed copies of the CSCC minutes and accounts.

Proposed LW, Seconded GP, Vote Passed Unanimous,

Action FT to contact the BCL regarding this.

8.2 Approval of Accounts 2014

Accounts presented to meeting.

Vote regarding approval of the accounts proposed DC, Seconded FL, Vote Passed Unanimous.

9 Conservation & access officer's report

Les Williams

9.1 Report on caves

- **Dinder Estates** Windsor hill flood sink 1 and NHASA dig now gated. Dinder estates have been informed.
- **Rhino** Now open. The rigging guide on the CSCC website is now out of date and needs updating. **Action on Webmaster AN.**
- **Compton Martin Ochre Mine** Needs a volunteer to remove the gate for remediation when ground dries out.
- **Viaduct Sink** Gate is ready to be fitted, we now need some volunteers and dry weather before we drive across field.
- **Swildons** Repair of causeway leading to blockhouse, waiting for drier weather, ongoing.



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- **Swildons Stile** Repair of stone stile on way to Swildons. The Priddy dry stone wall volunteers have offered their help. Approval of £50 for materials at November CSCC meeting.
- **Loxton Cavern** Pipes have been installed but further stabilization of entrance still required, Ongoing
- **SD2, Oakhill Eggcup, PG & Blake's farm swallet's.** Completed
- **Priddy Green Sink** LW AB to look at increasing ventilation through lid whilst maintaining security.

9.2 BCA have issued a Draft Caving code and Minimal impact caving code.

These two codes have been issued by BCA to the members for comment.

Action on FT to circulate the draft documents to CSCC members, requesting that they return their comments to BCA if they feel it necessary.

10 Training officer's report

Alan Butcher

BCA Training Committee meeting 10:00 Tuesday 12 May 2015

Items for discussion include;

- Local cave leader scheme being used as the basis of a formal qualification, something for which it was not initially intended and may require additional oversight and changes to perform this function.
- Training grants and how these should be claimed.
- Caving awards for children...

11 Equipment officer's report

Faye Litherland

Two anchors on the second pitch of Rhino have been reported as loose, they have been looked on a number of occasions in the last year and believed to be acceptable for use. To be investigated again in the near future.

BCA E&T committee meeting.

There are now two approved anchors that can be used.

- The bolt products anchor produced by Jim Titt
- The IC anchor supplied by Simon Wilson

The Styrene free resin approval is ongoing. Two manufactures resins are being looked at.

12 BCA rep report

James Begley

The minutes of the BCA council meeting have been published on the BCA website.

The BCA AGM and BCRC conference is Sunday 14th June in the Forrest of Dean.

Proposals for the BCA AGM

- "This meeting confirms that the Constitution allows BCA to seek clarification from DEFRA and Natural England on their existing guidance on The CRoW Act and its application to caving." Proposed by Damian Weare, seconded by Andy Eavis
Proposal that the CSCC position regarding this proposal is to abstain proposed by KB seconded by FL. In favor of abstaining 4, abstaining 3, against 3.
CSCC instruct our representative to abstain regarding this proposal.
- "That this General Meeting authorises Council where Council sees appropriate, to poll its membership using solely the means of electronic mail and the list of e-mail addresses of members that it holds, subject to such safeguards as adopted by Council, to obtain the view of its membership on the question or questions put in that poll. And that Council is duly



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authorised to act on that view and if necessary implement such actions which are consequential to that view. Save that any such view obtained by such a poll shall not bind a General Meeting.” Proposed by Robert Mehew

Proposal that CSCC vote against this because the amendment is unconstitutional and it is unnecessary. Proposed by FL seconded by GP. In favor of Against 8, abstaining 2.

CSCC instruct our representative to vote against this proposal.

13 Webmasters report

Aubrey Newport

Printed report presented to meeting.

The diary on the CSCC website is the BCA diary. CSCC does not have access to edit this diary.

The BCA diary will remain and have a note indicating that if people want to add items or edit this diary they should contact the BCA secretary or webmaster.

14 Regional registry officer's report

Alan Gray

15 Forthcoming events

Friday 25th to Sunday 27th September 2015 Hidden Earth at Churchill

16 Any other business

16.1 Nominations

(2:03)

Written nomination submitted pre meeting by Chris Binding for Training officer

Email nomination submitted pre meeting by DC for Treasurer.

All incumbents are standing again except for the chair KL

EW If the incumbent is not standing that this fact could be passed around the clubs.

FL At the last meeting FL asked if everyone was standing for the same posts in the coming year and KL did not inform the committee that she was thinking of standing down.

KL Reminded the meeting that it is her right to change her mind. The meeting agreed with this.

EW It would have been good if the fact that KL was standing down was known because there might have been people interested in standing. But they wouldn't have wanted to contest the incumbent, particularly as you have been in for one year, and people thought you would have been standing for a little bit longer. It feels a little bit odd that somebody got wind of that and one person has got in a nomination, whilst others have not had the chance to put people forward. Speaking as a member of a club which is not based around Priddy and did not hear what was going on in the Hunters bar.

EW Apologised to KL because this is not personally directed at her.

HB It seems to me that there is a lot of petty politics going on and if people should nominate on the day or a month before they should. In the BEC nominations are either before the meeting or if no one stands, from the floor. But because nominations are known people who disagree can rally around. This causes a lot of political hoo-hah which I can see people are trying to avoid.

HB I found out through the rumor mill yesterday and took it to the BEC meeting yesterday evening, it appears as if that there is a lot of underhand tactics taking place, it would be very nice that if people are standing down, they make it known a month before the meeting such that the clubs can be informed and are then able to consult with their committees.

LW This is part of the remit for the CSCC constitutional committee (Section 4.2) which was formed earlier in the meeting to address these sort of issues.



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HB The BEC committees view was, that from an outsider's point of view, it looks like this is very cliquy and petty.

LW This needs to be addressed by changes to the CSCC constitution for which a committee has been formed. The Wessex committee also found about KL standing down on Friday evening and has discussed it.

Vote for chair

AB Proposed by KB seconded LW, votes for 5

FL proposed by GP seconded DC, votes for 4

AB voted in as chair for the coming year.

Training officer is now vacant following election of AB as chair

Chris Binding has been proposed by FL and seconded by KB. Post is not contested

Chris Binding is training officer for the coming year.

AB proposed vote that all other posts are held by incumbents seconded by FL. Post are not contested and therefore the incumbents stand for the coming year.

16.2 Southern Professional and conservation cavers

"Southern Professional and conservation cavers" have applied to join CSCC,

They are not a BCA member club.

They have provided a constitution and paid their fee.

Proposal for membership AB, Passed Unanimous.

16.3 Dudley Caving Club

Applied for membership of CSCC through BCA,

Membership proposed, FL, Seconded LW, Passed Unanimous

16.4 Exeter University Speleological Society,

Applied for membership of CSCC through BCA,

Membership accepted, proposed FL, Seconded LW, Passed Unanimous

16.5 Keyhole Caving Club

Applied for membership of CSCC through BCA,

Membership accepted, proposed FL, Seconded LW, Passed Unanimous

16.6 CCC (Charterhouse caving company)

Email from CCC secretary

Hi Frank, Glenn

Further to last weekend's AGM, I have been tasked with informing you that the Company, as a member of BCA now wishes to tick the box for regional involvement with CSCC so that it can, if necessary, be formally represented at meetings.

Cheers

Graham Mullan

Company Secretary

Charterhouse Caving Company Ltd

Applied for membership of CSCC through BCA,



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The CSCC is unable to accept the CCC as member of CSCC, because the CCC is not a caving club.

We invite them send liaison to CSCC meetings as a representative of an access organization.

Action on the constitutional sub-committee to look into the issue of representation of access organisations into CSCC

16.7 CSCC Promotional Evening

Action on FL to look into CSCC promotional evening in the winter.

16.8 Proposal for a vote of thanks to out outgoing chair Kate Lawrence.

The meeting thanks Kate for being chair over the last 12 months.

17 Date of next meetings:

Saturday 5th	September 2015	(GM)	10:00	Hunters
Saturday 5th	December 2015	(GM)	10:00	Hunters
Saturday 6th	February 2016	(GM)	10:00	Hunters
Saturday 21th	May 2016	(AGM)	10:00	Hunters

Meeting duration 2h48m

Amendments following first issue of minutes

1 Attendance: Non-Voting Attendees. It should read ACI/SPCC not SCI/SPCC. (CB)

10 Delete the time (1h31) (AN)

16.2 I do not believe Southern Professional and conservation cavers are a BCA registered club. They paid CSCC £15 membership fee because they are not already BCA registered. (AN)

16.1 Inclusion of (EW's) comments included.

Draft minutes issued with Agenda 18/8/15

6 Audio recording checked and the second paragraph reflects exactly what KL said.

16.1 Audio Recording checked and details of pre-voting discussion has been included the minutes.