



Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the British Caving Association

www.csccl.org.uk

Minutes of General Meeting - Saturday 30th January 2016

DRAFT – Published 19 February 2016

1 Attendance

Voting Attendees

Alan Dempster	Avon Scouts Rep	AD	
Alan Gray	ACG Rep	AG	Regional Registry Officer
Dave Cooke	Cheddar Rep	DC	Treasurer
Graham Price	Cerberus Rep	GP	
Hannah Bennett	BEC Rep	HB	
Jonathan Da'Casto	Bristol and District CC	JD	
Keith Batten	SMCC Rep	KB	
Les Williams	WCC Rep	LW	C&A Officer

Non Voting

Alan Butcher	SMCC	AB	Chairman
Aubrey Newport	WCC	AN	Webmaster
Frank Tully	WCC	FT	Secretary

2 Apologies for Absence

Chris Binding	SPCC/ACI	CB	Training officer
Joe Duxbury	GSS		
Faye Litherland	BEC	FL	
James Begley		JB	BCA Rep
Geoff Dommett	Buckfastleigh CG	GD	
Graham Mullan	UBSS Rep	GM	
Barry Wilkinson	WCC	BW	
Dave King	MNRC Rep	DK	
Idris Williams	Shropshire Scouts	IW	

3 Approval of minutes from general meeting 5th September 2015

Minutes approved

4 Actions from previous minutes

4.1 Presentation from constitutional sub-group

The 'constitutional sub-group' distributed a draft of the proposed changes to the CSCC constitution to the CSCC members on the 21/1/16. A revised draft was distributed on the 29/1/16.

This revised draft was discussed at the meeting and the 'constitutional sub-group' took the comments raised back to the group.

A draft will be circulated to the CSCC members for comment.

The version for discussion at the AGM will be circulated, along with the existing constitution; by the CSCC secretary with the AGM Agenda, prior to the AGM meeting 21 May 2016.



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5 Other matters arising from previous minutes

None

6 Conservation & access officer's report

Les Williams

6.1 Report on caves

- Rhino Now open
- Box Quarries Gate Damage being repaired.
- Compton Martin Ochre Mine Volunteer needed to remove gate
- Viaduct Sink Fitting gate ongoing
- Swildons Repair of causeway leading to blockhouse, Ongoing
- Swildons Style Repair of stone stile on way to Swildons, Ongoing
- Loxton Cavern Entrance is secured, lower shaft still requires stabilization, Ongoing
- Winsor hill Bolt reported broken. LW to look at gate and sort out.

7 Chairman's report

Alan Butcher

Nothing to report

8 Honorary secretary's report

Frank Tully

8.1 Timetable for AGM

Documentation which is to be distributed with the AGM Agenda must be presented to Secretary before 9th April 2016

AGM Agenda to be distributed before 23rd April 2016

8.2 Membership Application from White Rabbit Caving Club

Club is not affiliated with BCA
Constitution has been supplied
Fee of £15 has been paid.
Vote passed Unanimous.

9 Honorary treasurer's report

Dave Cooke

Officers expenses to be submitted asap.

10 Training officer's report

Chris Binding

CSCC Training Report:

In the last couple of months 2 training events have been successfully provided, fully funded by BCA Recreational Caver Training Grants, for members of BDCC and MNRC, ladder and line and SRT rigging; the new grant application process has made life much easier for applications from clubs and further coaching events are available for any interested clubs, just apply to training@csccl.org.uk for details of availability and to get the ball rolling. Depending on the organisation of the tuition, it should not involve any cost to attendees, as it is funded by BCA subscriptions. Training events can be tailored to suit club members' requirements. However on a more general note, following the two major rescues in 2015 involving falls on ladder pitches, the Training Officer is keen to see a higher profile being given to ladder & line coaching for Mendip cavers and would like to stress the importance of using a safety line on al.

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10.1 Conservation Code Signs

CSCC do not support fitting conservation code signs to cave entrances.

11 Equipment officer's report

Faye Litherland

Equipment Officers Report to CSCC Meeting 30/01/16

Hi All,

Apologies that I cannot be with you in person due to work in Iceland and my flight not being until Sunday morning. If it is any consolation, I had made sure I was free for the original date and also last weekend which I had in my head was the revised meeting date.

Equipment & Techniques Committee Meeting 15/11/15

Rather excitingly, this was the first BCA meeting to be held via video conference. Lots of topics were discussed. Of importance to us are the following items:

- Size of installation hole for BP anchors – Current recommendations from the manufacturer are that BP anchors are installed in a 16mm hole. This whilst good for installation, causes significant problems with removing the anchor and being able to reuse the hole. Work is being carried out to assess any change in system strength using a larger hole, which would allow cleaner removal and subsequent re-use of the hole. This is very important work from a conservation point of view. No one wants to see resin anchor rash at the top of pitches like we saw with spits.
- Change to type of anchor resin recommended – Styrene based resins have been phased out in Europe and are likely to be phased out in the UK soon. In anticipation of this, the E&T Committee has been working on sourcing and testing alternative non styrene based resins. Fischer V 360 S resin has now been fully tested and is now BCAs preferred resin. Other resins will be undergoing testing to allow an alternative should the need arise.
- Fatigue life of resin – For quite some time I have been concerned that we have spent a lot of time testing the failure points of resin/rock systems with point loads. My particular concern has been regarding wear cycling of the resin during the repeated loading and unloading which the anchor sees. Nick Williams has a rig which will be able to carry out some fatigue testing and hopefully give us some data. Myself and Bob Mayhew have been tasked with scoping the work. If anyone has an interest and would like to get involved, please contact me.

CSCC Draft Constitution

After a bit of a false start, the sub committee has worked really well and very hard to come up with a mostly united proposal. There are a couple of areas which we felt it was important to present both options for people to discuss. The first of these is the use of dates rather than a number of weeks for notice periods. My personal feeling is that dates make it easier for the secretary and everyone else as they are unambiguous and less likely to be missed. Both options have been presented. Another point is around 7f. This section looks at the qualifying criteria to be chairman. We all agreed that it was important that the chairman was up to date on council matters. The debate was how we ensured that. Do we insist on them having attended a certain amount of meetings in the previous year, or some other measure. Please have a look and make suggestions.

DigFest & BCA AGM 3-5 June – An Orgy of Caving

Cookie has put together a poster and work is now ongoing to get speakers, organize workshops, digging teams etc to make it an event to remember. We will be putting a facebook group together over the next week or so along with starting up threads through other caving media. If anyone would like to get involved with the organisation, please let me know.



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Swildon's 20'

I have been approached by Chris Binding regarding the 20' in Swildons Hole.

I happen to agree with Chris and fully support his request. Please give this serious consideration before rejecting out of hand.

That's all folks.

Yours, Faye

11.1 Bolting of Swindons 20'

The feeling of the CSCC meeting was that it was not overwhelmingly in favor, although does recognise the merit in an alternative route down the Swildons 20'.

However the meeting felt that before a decision could be made details of how many bolts and their locations should be submitted to the equipment officer and the committee. Various members voiced reservations that, a second route should not impede use of the existing ladder hang.

12 BCA rep report

James Begley

BCA rep report:

Since the last CSCC meeting I have attended a BCA council meeting, held on the 9th January 2016. The minutes of this meeting have been published online at http://british-caving.org.uk/wiki3/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=about:documents:council_meetings:council_minutes_2016-01-09.pdf. This was another 5+ hour meeting, but the two main points of interest for consideration at the CSCC meeting are:

1) The training officers report - the relevant section reads:

"A discussion took place regarding the structure of Training Committee and an idea was put forward that separated the whole of the BCA awards schemes from Training Committee so that they stood independently and they would be managed by members of the NCP and CIC Panel. This new organisation would be called the British Caving Association Qualifications Management Committee (BCAQMC). It would not be part of Training Committee and therefore not answerable to it. Training Committee would continue but would only be linked to recreational caving and an extra Training Officer would need to be appointed to organise it. The distribution of training grants would be organised through this section. It was felt that there should still be a link between BCA Council and BCAQMC and Council should send a representative to BCAQMC meetings, but the representative should not be a BCA Trainer/Assessor within the award schemes. The whole of this idea of restructure was agreed totally by all present at the meeting."

This would seem to drive a permanent split between the "recreational" and "instructed" parts of the BCA's training committee, and as such wasn't welcomed by the council. However, since there was no detailed plan (or even a vague plan) as to how to proceed put forward, no decision was made. The training officer has been instructed to present a more detailed plan at the next council meeting. I'm sure that the CSCC's training officer will be able to supply more information.

2) The CRoW liaison officers report.

As directed at the last CSCC meeting, I reiterated that the CRoW liaison officer needs to be mindful of the potential consequences of unregulated access to sensitive sites that happen to be under Access Land. I was encouraged that the CRoW liaison officer raised the issue of Section 26 orders, and am assured that this will be considered by the BCA's C&A committee.

Aside from the BCA council meeting, I have booked the long room at the Hunters for the BCA AGM on the Sunday of the DigFest weekend. I also booked the room for the Saturday in case any other



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meetings were required. I have not made any booking for the Friday evening - if the room will be required then could someone from the DigFest organising team make the necessary arrangements?

12.1 Training committee Split

CSCC await BCA's response.

CSCC express our disquiet regarding at the proposals from the training committee.

CSCC instructs our training officer to represent our views at the training committee that we are unhappy with these developments. If the training officer cannot attend the next training committee meeting for any reason the CSCC chairman must to be informed so we can put forward another representative.

12.2 Crow Liaison officers report

The CSCC meeting notes that Tim Allen appears to be campaigning to promote the view that CRoW act should apply to caving.

This would be against the BCA agreed AGM motion, that states 'This meeting confirms that the BCA constitution allows the seeking of clarification from DEFRA and Natural England on their existing guidance on CRoW act and its application to caving.'

The BCA AGM did not agree that Tim Allen could campaign for the view that CRoW act should apply to caving.

FT to contact BCA committee expressing the CSCCs view that we are not happy with Tim Allen campaigning to promote the view that CRoW act should apply to caving.

13 Webmasters report

Aubrey Newport

FL to assist AN with updating the installed bolt list.

Website requires a short description indicating that the CSCC bolting scheme is part of the devolved BCA bolting program and sits within the national framework.

Action on all other officers to check their section are up to date and contact AN if required.

Diary is now updateable.

14 Regional registry officer's report

Alan Gray

Nothing to report

15 Forthcoming events

Saturday 4th to Sunday 5th June 2016

Dig-Fest at Priddy Village hall.

Sunday 5th June 2016

BCA AGM at the Hunters.

Saturday 13th to Saturday 20th August

Euro Spelo.

16 Any other business

DigFest

The BEC have for a team to organising the Wessex challenge.

17 Date of next meetings:

Saturday 21st May 2016

(AGM) 10:00 Hunters

Meeting duration 2h04m