



# Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the British Caving Association

[www.csccl.org.uk](http://www.csccl.org.uk)

Annual General Meeting - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016

DRAFT MINUTES sent out 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015

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## 1 Attendance

### Voting Attendees

Alan Butcher	SMCC	AB	Training Officer
Alan Dempster	Avon Scouts Rep	AD	
Barry Wilkinson	White Rabbit CC	BW	Observer
Chris Binding	SPCC / ACI	CB	
Daniel Mathews	MCG	DM	
Dave Cooke	Cheddar Rep	DC	Treasurer
Dave King	MNRC Rep	DK	
Faye Litherland	Compass	FL	Equipment Officer
Graham Mullan	UBSS	GM	
Graham Price	Cerberus SS Rep	GP	
Hannah Bennett	BEC Rep	HB	
Joe Duxbury	Gloucester CC		
Jonathon Da Casto	B&DCC	JDC	
Les Williams	WCC Rep	LW	C&A Officer
Peter Burgess	WCMS		

### Non-Voting Attendees

Aubrey Newport	WCC	AN	Webmaster
Bob Mehew		BM	Observer
Darrel Instrell	MNRC/WCC		Observer
Frank Tully	WCC	FT	Secretary
Kay Eyeington			Observer
Keith Batten	SMCC Rep	KB	Observer
Stuart McManus	BEC		Observer
Tony Oldham			

## 2 Apologies for Absence

Geoff Dommett

Idris Williams Shropshire Scouts Caving Team

James Begley SMCC JB BCA Rep

## 3 Approval of minutes from general meeting 30th January 2015

Proposal to approve the minutes with minor corrections. Approved

## 4 Actions from previous meetings

None

## 5 Other matters arising from previous minutes

None



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## 6 New Members

None

## 7 Chairman's report

**Alan Butcher**

The chairman and the meeting express dismay at the damage to Hunters Lodge Inn Sink. Pigtail risers have been supplied for additional taping off.

## 8 Honorary secretary's report

**Frank Tully**

None

## 9 Conservation & access officer's report

**Les Williams**

### 9.1 Report on caves

- **Box** Ongoing issues with access, Land owner has erected a fence around back door to deter miscreants. Lady Hamilton's II is open.
- **Browns Folly** Gates have been removed, being handled by Avon Wildlife trust.
- **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.
- **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
- **Waterwheel Swallet** CSCC was informed that gate was off, new gate has been installed. expenditure authorised upto £500 when invoice arrives Proposed LW Seconded FL, passed Unanimous.
- **Priddy Green Sink** LW AB to look at increasing ventilation through lid whilst maintaining security.

#### 9.1.1 C&A Webex meeting:

The caving minimal impact code has been produced and the C&A committee is working on the bat guidance note. There was discussion on signs for cave entrances.

## 10 Honorary treasurer's report

**Dave Cooke**

### 10.1 Retentions

The LADS have not paid their subs last year or this year and as such are no longer members of CSCC.

### 10.2 Approval of Accounts 2015

#### Treasurer's Report to the CSCC AGM 2016

The draft 2015 Accounts have been circulated and scrutinised, ready to be approved by the AGM. Thanks are due to Aubrey Newport for the rapid and expert scrutiny of the accounts.



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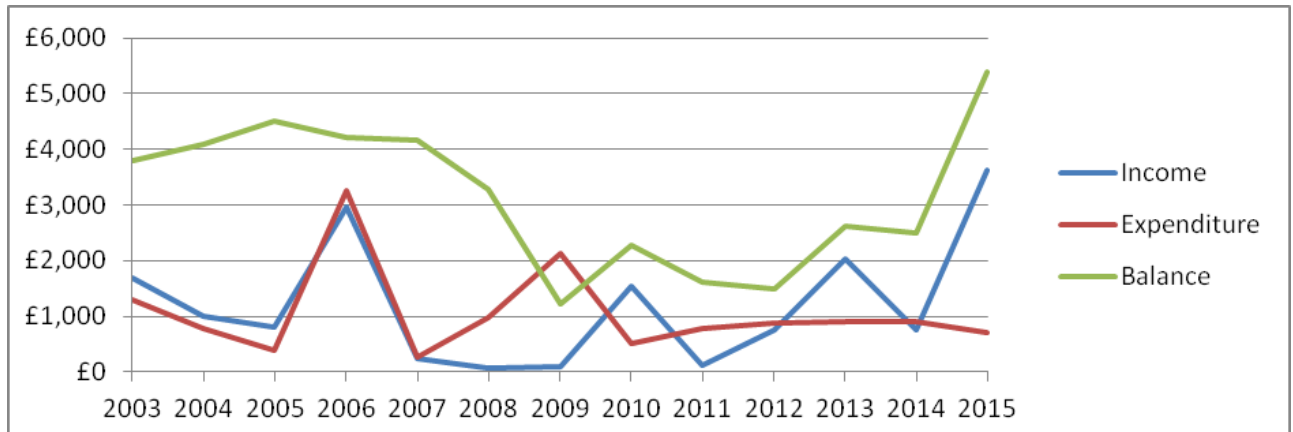
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I have successfully recovered all our outstanding claims from BCA. These go back many years from before my time as Treasurer. I should make it clear that the delays in payment were through no fault of BCA. As a result our funds have doubled to a far healthier £5398 in the bank.

Some historical figures were requested at the last AGM, so here is a graph showing CSCC's income, expenditure and bank balance.



Hearty thanks should be given to the Officers who have generously donated their travel expenses to CSCC.

I have processed the renewal of our non-BCA members. At the calendar year end CSCC's membership stood at 42 clubs of which 40 are also BCA members.

I am happy to stand for the post of Treasurer again.

David Cooke  
May 2016

Vote regarding approval of the accounts subject to minor correction due to LADS not paying. proposed LW, Seconded GM, Vote Passed Unanimous.

LW Thanks to Dave Cooke for getting our accounts up to date with BCA.

Accounts summary attached to end of AGM minutes.

## 11 Training officer's report

**Chris Binding**

Over the past year we have successfully performed three coaching events for CSCC, coaching Ladder & Line and SRT. The funding for this comes from the recreational caver training grant.

There is a proposal to change the organisation of the BCA training committee. The proposal is to split the training committee into two sides; recreational and professional. This has not been agreed at this moment in time. AB

## 12 Equipment officer's report

**Faye Litherland**

### 12.1 Request for placement of new anchors on Swildons 20' pitch.

Chris Binding is proposing a high level SRT traverse, out above the current ladder hang dropping down clear of the water. It will be clear of the current ladder hang.

Proposed FL, Seconded JDC, In Favor 15, Abstentions 1, Not voting 1, Against 0, Passed



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## 12.2 Delegation of powers

Potentially there may be requirement for anchors to be placed at short notice.

If there is an issue that needs to be addressed at short notice the decision can be made outside of a meeting however the decision should include the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer

Proposed FL, Seconded CB, Passed Nem Con

## 12.3 Anchors replacement.

The original anchors in St Cuthberts are now needing replacement, FL and Andrew Atkinson are looking at placing resin anchors.

The original exploration anchors in the frozen deep is also being looked at.

## 12.4 Anchor selection

The latest anchors purchased on Mendip have been the twisted leg anchor, these have not been placed. This anchor cannot be removed by drilling down the resin and pulling them out because the twist fouls the drill. It is the general view in Mendip that there is not enough solid limestone for us to simply cut off damaged anchors and start again. CSCC are therefore not going to place any of the twisted leg anchors.

There are two straight leg anchors available:

The Simon Wilson anchor is laser cut and machined from sheet steel and the final finishing of the anchors is labor intensive and is limiting the numbers that can currently be produced in the volumes required by the UK caving community. They are therefore not readily available

Bolt Products Produce another straight leg anchor.

Note the Petzl colinox and batinox anchors are 304 stainless and potentially cannot be removed.

FL is looking into methods to source some anchors.

## 13 BCA rep report

**James Begley**

Unfortunately, I won't be able to make it to the CSCC AGM on Saturday - please present my apologies.

As the CSCC representative on the BCA council, I have attended the council meeting since the last CSCC meeting - the draft minutes for this seven hour epic are available on the BCA website

here: [british-](http://british-caving.org.uk/wiki3/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=about:documents:council_meetings:council_minutes_2016-04-09.pdf)

[caving.org.uk/wiki3/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=about:documents:council\\_meetings:council minutes\\_2016-04-09.pdf](http://caving.org.uk/wiki3/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=about:documents:council_meetings:council_minutes_2016-04-09.pdf) (The conservation and access officers report will make more sense if read with

the minutes of the recent C&A committee meeting [british-](http://british-caving.org.uk/wiki3/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=conservation_access:160219_canda_minutes_draft.pdf)

[caving.org.uk/wiki3/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=conservation\\_access:160219\\_canda\\_minutes\\_draft.pdf](http://caving.org.uk/wiki3/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=conservation_access:160219_canda_minutes_draft.pdf)). I'd like to draw the CSCC's attention to a couple of items within those minutes:

1) CRoW. The CSCC's complaint was discussed in detail under the secretary's report (see pages 5 & 6). From the CRoW liaison officers report, it is becoming clear that DEFRA are unlikely to change their current interpretation of the CRoW act with regard to caving (see pages 10 & 13).

2) Training. The outline proposal to split the training committee into two parts (one for recreational cavers and one for instructed / commercial cavers) has been accepted (see pages 17 - 19). There is (much!) more work to be done to get the details sorted out.

I'm sure that the CSCC doesn't need reminding that the BCA AGM is to be held on Mendip this year, on the Sunday of the DigFest weekend in the Hunters - see information on the BCA website here: [british-caving.org.uk/wiki3/doku.php?id=general\\_meetings:2016agm](http://british-caving.org.uk/wiki3/doku.php?id=general_meetings:2016agm) Unfortunately, I'm going to be working in London on that date, so will be unable to represent the CSCC or vote. I



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would strongly recommend that the CSCC appoints someone else to go (and provides a letter on CSCC headed paper authorising that person to vote). Since I have been the CSCC rep to the BCA council for two years now, I feel that it is time for a new person to take on the role, so would be happy if whoever represented the CSCC at the BCA AGM were to carry on representing the CSCC at future council meetings. Cheers, James.

## 13.1 Mandate for CSCC representative to forthcoming BCA AGM

There are proposals to be discussed and voted on at the BCA AGM. The CSCC needs to determine our position regarding these issues and mandate our representative accordingly.

### 13.1.1 Proposal to change BCA constitution to allow Proxy voting

The main issue is vote security, we couldn't be sure that someone carrying proxy votes actually represents the persons to whom on behalf they are voting.

Mandate to instruct the CSCC representative to vote against proxy voting.

Proposed DC, Seconded LW, Passed Nem Con

If it looks like the meeting is going to allow proxy voting could the CSCC representative vote for an amendment that limits the number of proxy votes to 2 votes per person, 1 personal vote and one proxy vote.

### 13.1.2 Amendment to the BCA Constitution wording of section 4.6.

The existing wording:

The owners or tenants of property containing caves have the right to grant or withhold access. Where caving bodies have the access delegated to them by the owners such access should be obtained and granted as freely as possible for all responsible cavers within the terms of those agreements. When obliged to make new agreements the appropriate bodies should endeavor to ensure that this freedom is maintained or improved.

The amendment is not to dilute landowners control where they have that legal right but it does allow BCA to campaign for an increase in rights.

Proposal to amend the first sentence to:

That any rights or mineral rights held by the owners or tenants of property be respected.

The CSCC position is that we have concerns that any changes to the law will have a detrimental effect to access arrangements that we have carefully negotiated in this region for many years and therefore we feel we have to defend them as best as we can.

Not for the first time does the CSCC find itself in a minority of one with respect to the CRoW act various contrary voices in BCA have spent some time rubbishing any contrary view about CRoW that CSCC may put forward without taking the time to consider them. CSCC have grave doubts that a change to the CRoW act to include caving will be an advantage in their region where access arrangements have been carefully negotiated and maintained over many years. It seems to the CSCC that this change may have unintended consequences for our access arrangements and access may be lost rather than secured. It is with this background that the CSCC comes to this meeting (Meeting back in March 2016) to make a formal complaint about the way the constitution is being interpreted in the apparent head-on rush to invoke a change in the law. It seems it is the BCA turning a blind eye to the very loose interpretation of the BCA construction being applied by the CRoW liaison officer with respect to the motion being passed by BCA AGM

CSCC is therefore making a formal complaint about the failure of the BCA to properly operate its constitution with respect to discussions about the CRoW act especially given there was insufficient majority to make a change to the constitution and in fact the large majority of members voted against the change to the constitution are being ignored.



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Mandate to instruct the CSCC representative to follow the above policy regarding CRoW  
Proposed AB, Seconded FL, Passed Nem Con

## 14 Webmasters report

**Aubrey Newport**

Report of CSCC Webmaster 21 May 2016

I have updated the CSCC website whenever I have received relevant information and have operated the CSCC mailing lists, mostly to stop members receiving unnecessary SPAM.

Some areas of the CSCC website are out of date and urgently need attention to avoid the site reflecting badly on the council. This is particularly relevant with the equipment area where the list of bolts is long out of date. Ideally this should be updated before Eurospeleo 2016.

There has been a request to archive the website by the British Library.

Proposal to allow the British Library to archive our website.

Proposed AB, Seconded AN, passed Unanimous.

## 15 Regional registry officer's report

**Alan Gray**

Nothing to report to meeting

## 7 Presentation from 'CSCC Constitution Sub-Group'

Deferred to later in the meeting from Chairman's remarks.

A discussion took place regarding changes to the CSCC constitution.

The original CSCC constitution; the proposed changes to the constitution and the constitution following amendments discussed in this meeting will be published with these minutes.

The constitution changes could not be voted upon at this meeting because the respective clubs needed to take these changes back to their clubs for consideration.

An EGM will then be called to vote on these constitutional changes.

## 16 Forthcoming events

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June

DigFest

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August

Mendip Regional EuroSpelo Event

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August

EuroSpelo Dalesbridge Yorkshire



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## 17 Nominations

We have to thank all the officers this past year for their work.

	Nominee	Nominated	Seconded	Vote
Chairman	AB	GM	LW	Nem Con
Secretary	FL	LW	AG	Nem Con
C&A	LW	FL	BW	Nem Con
Treasurer	DC	AB	LW	Nem Con
Training Officer	CB	FL	LW	Nem Con
Equipment	FL	GM	DK	Nem Con
BCA Rep	Position Vacant			

This meeting nominates AB to represent CSCC at the forthcoming BCA AGM and council meeting.

Webmaster	AN	LW	BW	Nem Con
Regional Registry	AG	GM	FL	Nem Con
Scrutineer for the accounts (Not an officer post)				
	AN	FL	DC	Nem Con

## 18 Any other business

It is proposed that Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary will be the signatories in accordance with the bank mandate for CSCC in the coming year.

Proposed LW Seconded GM, Passed Nem Con

Subs for members which are not BCA members should stay at £15 per year.

Proposed DC Seconded FT Passed Nem, Con.

## 19 Date of next meetings:

Saturday 10th	Septemberr 2016	(GM)	10:00	Hunters
Saturday 26th	November 2016	(EGM)	10:00	Hunters
Saturday 18th	February 2017	(GM)	10:00	Hunters
Saturday 20th	May 2017	(AGM)	10:00	Hunters

Meeting duration 3h16m