



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 13th. February 2010,
10am, Monyash Village Hall

Present:

Clubs:

Eldon P. C. (Bob Dearman)
Masson C. G. Chris Broome [CB], Dennis Jump [DJ], (Dave Webb)
Orpheus C. C. Paul Lydon [PL], Boyd Potts [BP], (Karen Slatcher), (Jenny Potts)
Peak District Mines H. S. Dave Webb [DW]
Technical Spel. Group Wayne Sheldon [WS]

Individual Members:

Bob Dearman [BD], Stuart Gibbs [SG], Tony Gibbs [TG], Terry Jackson [TJ], Pete Mellors [PM], Jenny Potts [JP],
(Wayne Sheldon), Karen Slatcher [KS]

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME, ESTABLISH QUORUM:

1.1 **Welcome:** Bob Dearman, DCA Chairman, welcomed members to the AGM and established that the meeting was quorate with 5 clubs represented and 8 individual members present.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies received from: Officers: Nigel Atkins (Training Officer), Iain Barker (Access Officer), Jules Barrett (Equipment Officer), Martyn Grayson (Projects Officer), Christine Wilson (Asst. Cons. Off.).
Associate Member: Burton V.T. (G.Marshment). Individual Members: Mike Pilling, David Wall.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING:

3.1 **Annual General Meeting, 21 February 2009:** *(Previously circulated and on the DCA website; taken as read.)*
That the Minutes of the AGM of 21 February 2009 be approved. Prop. B. Potts, Sec. T.Gibbs. *Agreed unanimously.*

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

None.

5. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

5.1 **Individual Member:** Joanne Dudley. Prop. by J.Potts, Sec. Karen Slatcher. Accepted as an Individual Member.

6. OFFICERS' REPORTS:

The Annual Officers' Reports and Accounts were tabled and would be included with the published Minutes in due course.

6.1 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: *(BD gave a verbal report.)*

BD said that DCA had had a very active year; much good work had been done and he thanked all those DCA Officers and others involved in the work for their effort and time. He felt the local caving scene was healthy and that DCA's finances were healthy.

That the Chairman's Report be accepted. Prop. B.Potts, Sec. C.Broome. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.2 SECRETARY'S REPORT: *(Written report tabled.)*

6.2.a **Email Communications:** JP reminded members that, although the use of email saved DCA time and money, it was not infallible. Urgent matters were best dealt with by phone.

6.2.b **Cliffhanger 2010:** JP stated that DCA had been asked to put on a stand/display at the 2010 event. This would be discussed in detail at the Council Meeting following the AGM.

That the Secretary's Report be accepted. Prop. K.Slatcher, sec. D.Webb. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.3 TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS: *(Written report and accounts tabled.)*

6.3.a **Account details:** JP highlighted the differences in income and expenditure between this year's and last year's accounts and explained the reasons for this. She felt that problems in completing the accounts in time for the AGM could be solved by holding the AGM at the end of February in future.

6.3.b **Eyam Delph Swallet payment:** JP reported her concern that to date she had received no receipt or acknowledgement from anyone for the £200 Cheque re. the fencing of the new swallet in the Delph. This payment had been approved by Council on 13 June 2009 (item 6.2.c); sent to Mr. Sowerby, as requested, on 28 Aug. 2009; and debited to DCA's account in December 2009. She would follow this up.

6.3.c **Training Grants:** JP noted that we had received no training grants from BCA this year, although some training events had taken place.

That the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Prop. P.Lydon, sec. W.Sheldon. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.4 CONSERVATION OFFICER'S REPORT: *(Written report tabled.)*

6.4.a **Upland Caves Network:** JP had been invited to attend the next meeting of UCN in March and would report back to DW.

6.4.b **"Do You Dig Caves" leaflet:** Members were pleased to hear of the "Do You Dig Caves" leaflet being produced by DW. It was hoped that copies could be included in the forthcoming Peak District Access & Rigging Guide.

6.4.c **Stal. for sale:** Noted that various sources were offering stal. for sale. It appeared likely that this was coming from abroad, and hence may not have been removed illegally, but it was still disappointing to see it being offered for sale in the UK.

That the Conservation Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. P.Lydon, sec. P.Mellors. *Agreed unanimously.*

- 6.5 ASSISTANT CONSERVATION OFFICER'S REPORT:** (*Apologies sent; written report tabled.*)
- 6.5.a **CO₂ Meters:** Noted that we ought to make sure that these are insured if possible. JP would enquire whether these were covered under BCA's general equipment insurance.
- 6.5.b **Carbon Monoxide in Long Rake:** Noted that investigations were continuing to try to ascertain whether there remains any CO in Long Rake or New Venture Mine. The source of the original CO in Long Rake was not known. There was no access to the mine for the foreseeable future.
- 6.5.c **Thanks:** DW asked for a vote of thanks to CW for the tremendous amount of work she was doing. *Agreed unanimously.*
That the Asst. Conservation Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. W.Sheldon, sec. B.Potts. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 6.6 ACCESS OFFICER'S REPORT:** (*Apologies sent; written report tabled.*)
- 6.6.a **Ashford Black Marble Mine:** PM noted IB's work on the gate and also the requirement to replace a lost key.
- 6.6.b **Obscure sites:** DW noted that we were gradually building up a database of access details for obscure sites.
That the Access Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. P.Lydon, sec. T.Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 6.7 LEGAL & INSURANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:** (*Written report tabled.*)
- 6.7.a **Liability Queries:** PM noted that we continued to receive queries about liability and, at present, there is no great pressure for the level of the BCA P.L. insurance to be raised to £5m. Although Staffs Wildlife Trust refuse to accept £2m, all other landowners in the region find this level acceptable for the time being.
That the Legal & Insurance Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. C.Broome, sec. T.Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 6.8 EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:** (*Apologies sent; written report tabled.*)
- 6.8.a **New Anchor Installers:** BD informed members that the three cavers selected to be trained as anchor installers under the BCA scheme are Sam Townsend, Rob Middleton and Phil Baker.
- 6.8.b **P.8. Bolts:** The bolts had been placed by DCRO to assist in a rescue and, as they were solidly placed 10mm bolts with hangers, it was agreed that it was best they be left in situ; they would not be replaced by Eco-anchors.
- 6.8.c **Giants Hole Bolts:** Discussion over the bolts placed on the right hand wall of Garlands pot was continuing with DCRO and PICA involved.
That the Equipment Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. K.Slatcher, sec. W.Sheldon. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 6.9 TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT:** (*Apologies sent; written report tabled.*)
- 6.9.a **Activities for 2010:** Noted that there was a very full programme of activities planned for 2010.
That the Training Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. T.Jackson, sec. P.Lydon. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 6.10 CAVE REGISTRY SECRETARY'S REPORT:** (*Not present; written report tabled.*)
- 6.10.a **Registry on the web:** Noted that John Beck was continuing to update the registry and noted his comments on the software used. The Mendip and Cambrian Cave Registries were now fully searchable on the web and it was queried whether it might be possible to achieve this with the Derbyshire Registry. JP would take up this point with JB.
That the Cave Registry Secretary's Report be accepted. Prop. T.Jackson, sec. K.Slatcher. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 6.11 ASSISTANT SECRETARY / PLANNING LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT:** (*CB gave a verbal report.*)
- 6.11.a **Tearsall Quarry application:** CB reported that it had been a very quiet year and the Tearsall Quarry application had been approved with very little objection after it had been fully discussed with interested parties from the mining historical world.
- 6.11.b **Bradwell Area:** There had been no application relating to the Bradwell Quarry.
- 6.11.c **Ball Eye Quarry:** No application has come in for any extensions but there is known to be an old permission with a possible 2020 deadline so CB will continue to keep an eye on this one.
- 6.11.d **Peak Choices:** BP brought to our attention the initiative on waste disposal from Derbyshire County Council. He would forward information to CB.
That the Assistant Secretary's Report be accepted. Prop. T.Jackson, sec. P.Lydon. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 6.12 PUBLICATIONS OFFICER:** (*PL gave a verbal report.*)
- 6.12.a **News needed:** PL pointed out that, unless he was supplied with news to put in, he could not produce an issue of "The Derbyshire Caver". Members were urged to send in material.
That the Publications Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. T.Jackson, sec. B.Potts. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 6.13 PROJECTS OFFICER'S REPORT:** (*Apologies sent; no written report tabled.*)
- 6.13.a **Major works completed:** JP had spoken to Martyn Grayson on the phone prior to the meeting and noted that he would not be able to attend but was willing to continue in post next year. He had completed major stabilisation work on the head of Bitch Pitch in JH; he had also masterminded the clean-up in Gautries Side Pot and worked on this, together with a number of volunteers, for two successive weekends in atrocious weather in February 2009.
- 6.13.b **Rowter Hole lid:** WS reported that the repairs to the lid on Rowter Hole had not yet been completed. JP would contact MG about this.
- 6.14 BCA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT:** (*Written report tabled.*)
- 6.14.a **Problems with acceptance of documentation on anchor placement:** BD explained the situation re. CSCC and the new documentation, as reported by JP. Noted that at the June 2009 Council Meeting DCA members had expressed themselves satisfied with the system set up by BCA and with BD's explanation of it. DCA members were concerned that we wished to move forward with training new installers and to be sure that their work was covered by the BCA insurance, so it was felt we needed the documentation formally approved by BCA.
That DCA formally adopts the IPTD, (entitled PERMANENT RESIN BONDED ANCHORS - INSTALLATION PROCEDURE, TRAINING & DOCUMENTATION) Issue 4 - Updated 23rd March 2009, as the standard BCA document on Eco-anchor installation.
Prop. J.Potts, Sec. T.Gibbs. *Agreed unanimously.*
JP would report this formal adoption to the BCA AGM in March.

- 6.14.b **BCA Constitutional Amendments:** Noted that DCA members were happy with the proposed change of date for the BCA AGM to June from 2011 onwards. There were no comments on any of the other amendments proposed. Noted that these had not been discussed in detail by BCA Council as the meeting scheduled for 9 January 2010 had to be cancelled due to travel difficulties caused by snow.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

All current officers were willing to stand again and there were no other nominations.

Chairman:	R.S.Dearman	Vice-Chairman:	T.Jackson
Secretary:	J.Potts	Treasurer:	J.Potts
Conservation Officer:	D.Webb,	Asst. Conservation Officer:	C. Wilson
Access Officer:	I.Barker	Projects Officer:	M.Grayson
Legal & Insurance Officer:	P.Mellors	Equipment Officer:	J.Barrett
Training Officer:	N.Atkins	Publications Off. / Newsletter Editor:	P.Lydon
Cave Registry Secretary:	J.Beck	Assistant Secretary / Planning Liaison:	C.Broome

That the above officers be re-elected en bloc. Prop. B.Potts, Sec. T.Gibbs. *Agreed unanimously.*

8. ELECTION OF THREE ORDINARY MEMBERS OF THE CAVE DISCOVERY FUND PANEL:

That the existing members be re-elected. Proposed by J.Potts, Sec. K.Slatcher, *Agreed unanimously.*

Members of CDF Grants Panel: I.Barker, T.Jackson, B.Potts.

9. BCA AGM – 20 March 2010: Outline of business affecting DCA.

Dealt with under item 6.14 above.

10. APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES/REPRESENTATIVES TO BCA AGM AND BCA COMMITTEES:

10.1 **DCA delegate to BCA AGM:** B.Dearman was appointed.

Members were reminded that the meeting was open to any member of a member club as well as to Direct Individual Members and Club representatives. BP said he would be present as Orpheus C.C. rep. and JP would also be present as a Direct Individual Member.

10.2 **DCA representative on BCA Council:** J.Potts was appointed.

10.3 **DCA representatives to BCA Special Committees:** The appropriate DCA Officers would attend: C&A Committee [D.Webb and C.Wilson], Training Committee [Nigel Atkins], Equipment Committee [Bob Dearman and Jules Barrett] and Legal & Insurance Committee [Pete Mellors].

10.4 **DCA representatives to other BCA working groups:** P.Mellors would liaise with the Radon Working Group and it was noted that PICA might have some input to this also. J.Beck would be the contact for the Cave Registry.

11. APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES/REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

11.1 **SSSI Liaison Group:** D.Webb and C.Wilson were appointed; **Underground Conservation Forum:** D.Webb was appointed, CW and JP would also attend.

11.2 **PICA:** D.Webb, B.Dearman and J.Potts were appointed.

11.3 **Derbyshire Sport:** J.Potts was appointed.

12. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR MEETINGS FOR THE COMING YEAR:

12.1 **DCA AGM 2011:** 10am. Saturday, 26th February 2011, at Monyash Village Hall.

12.2 **DCA Council Meetings 2010:** All at 10am on Saturdays at Monyash Village Hall:

The first Council Meeting would follow immediately after this AGM. JP would organise 2 further meetings for 26th. June and 30th. October 2010.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

13.1 Caves of the Peak District & DCA (Handbook) Peak District Access & Rigging Guide:

13.1.a **Caves of the Peak District:** Iain Barker & John Beck had reported on CoPD progress in their respective written reports referred to above (6.6 and 6.10). Members were happy to leave matters in their hands and accept their recommendations re. publishing via Chris Howes.

13.1.b **DCA (Handbook) Peak District Access & Rigging Guide:** This continued to be updated ready for publication as soon as CoPD was ready.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.20pm.

J.E.Potts, Recorder

APPENDED TO THESE MINUTES AND FORMING PART OF THEM ARE:

THE DCA OFFICERS' ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2009

THE DCA ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DEC. 2009.