



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 26th. February 2011, 10am, Monyash Village Hall

Present: **Clubs:** Eldon Pothole Club Bob Dearman [BD]
 Masson Caving Group Chris Broome [CB], Paul Chandler [PC], Davis Webb [DW], (Chris Wilson)
 Orpheus Caving Club Paul Lydon [PL], Boyd Potts [BP], Jenny Potts, Karen Slatcher
 T. S. G. Wayne Sheldon [WS], Martyn Grayson [MG], (Phil Wolstenholme)
 Yorkshire Subt. Soc. Chris Wilson [CW]

Individual Members: Terry Jackson [TJ], Peter Mellors [PM], Jenny Potts [JP], Karen Slatcher [KS], Phil Wolstenholme [PW], (Wayne Sheldon)

1. **CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME:**
The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and established that the meeting was quorate.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**
Apologies for absence received from: Nigel Atkins [NA] (Training Officer), Iain Barker [IB] (Access Officer), Jules Barrett [JBa] (Equipment Officer), John Beck [JBe] (Cave Registry Secretary).
3. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM:** (13 Feb. 2010. Circulated and on DCA website)
That the Minutes of the AGM, 13 Feb. 2010, be approved as a correct record.
Prop. Terry Jackson, sec. Paul Lydon. *Agreed unanimously.*
4. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:**
There were no matters arising.
5. **ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:**

Individuals: Ewan Cameron, Prop. J.Potts; Phil Wolstenholme, Prop. J.Potts. *Both agreed unanimously.*
Club: Leicestershire Scout Caving Unit (Members of BCA). *Agreed unanimously.*
Associate Member: Evolution Outdoors Ltd. (Members of BCA). *Agreed unanimously.*
6. **OFFICERS' REPORTS:**
The Annual Officers' Reports and Accounts were tabled and would be included with the published Minutes in due course.
 - 6.1 **HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT:** (Written report tabled.)
 - 6.1.a The Secretary emphasised that there was a need for someone to take on the role similar to that of BCA's Youth Development Officer: to take charge of organising events involving the general public, e.g. Cliffhanger, where we were increasingly being called upon to provide a 'presence'. DCA had already acquired a materials and equipment which could be used for this but she felt that this did not fall entirely within the remit of the Training Officer, although he had given assistance at such events in the past.
 - 6.1.b The Secretary noted that the Club membership of DCA was increasing.
 - 6.1.c *That the Hon. Secretary's Report be accepted.* Prop. Karen Slatcher, Sec. Chris Broome. *Agreed unanimously.*
 - 6.2 **HON. TREASURER'S REPORT:** (Written Report and the Accounts for the year ending 31 Dec. 2010 were tabled.)
 - 6.2.a **Treasurer's Notes:** JP drew attention to the Treasurer's Notes, which clarified the position re. Cliffhanger expenditure and the arrangements for BCA Grants.
 - 6.2.b **Caves of the Peak District:** JP explained the situation with CoPD sales and expenses. Although we had apparently made a loss in 2010, in fact almost all the expenditure had occurred in 2010 and sales were going well in 2011, so that we are now well on the way to making a profit on the project.
 - 6.2.c **DCA Material Assets:** JP noted that the increase in material assets held was due largely to the A.S.S. and the stocks of CoPD.
 - 6.2.d **BCA Grant system:** JP emphasised the amount of grant DCA now received from BCA - she had set out the details of how this worked in her Treasurer's Notes.
 - 6.2.e **Account Balances:** JP noted that the balances showed a "loss" for 2010 but this was due to the expenditure on CoPD falling almost entirely within 2010, whereas the income would be coming in during 2011.
 - 6.2.f **Electronic Payments:** JP drew attention to the remarks on electronic payments in her report. Banking practice was due to change in the next few years and cheques would become obsolete so we needed to be thinking ahead to be ready for the changes in good time.
 - 6.2.g *That the Hon. Treasurer's Report be accepted.* Prop. Dave Webb, Sec. Terry Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*
 - 6.2.h **Travel Expenses:** JP noted that DCA paid travel expenses at the same rate as BCA, i.e. to cover the cost of fuel for volunteers using their own cars. At the January BCA Council Meeting, after considerable discussion, BCA had increased their rate to 25p per mile, backdated to 1 January 2011. JP felt that DCA should continue to match BCA's rates.
That DCA sets its minimum payment per mile in line with BCA and that this is adjusted automatically.
Prop. Jenny Potts, Sec. Karen Slatcher. *Agreed unanimously.*

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

6.3.a DW introduced his report briefly, noting that he had reported in detail at each Council Meeting throughout the year. He stressed the importance of the discoveries at Water Icicle and the measures taken to ensure the site was conserved.

6.3.b *That the Conservation Officer's Report be accepted.* Prop. Paul Lydon, Sec. Chris Wilson. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.3.c A vote of thanks was given to Dave Webb, to the Conservation Team at Water Icicle and to Orpheus Caving Club for their efforts.

6.4 LEGAL & INSURANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: *(Written report tabled.)*

6.4.a **Water Icicle:** PM noted that Chatsworth Estates had reacted favourably to the measures taken at Water Icicle. He felt that it was a tribute to the efforts of Jo Poll and to Natural England's support that Chatsworth were content with the situation. JP noted that the extremely "anti DCA" and "anti OCC" comments on UKcaving had ceased last October; KS noted the helpful posting from "Old Git" in favour of the action taken.

6.4.b **Pretoria Mine:** It was suggested that a check should be made on the access situation at Pretoria Mine.

6.4.c *That the Legal & Insurance Officer's Report be accepted.* Prop. Wayne Sheldon, Sec. Terry Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.5 ACCESS OFFICER'S REPORT:

Noted that, although Iain Barker had emailed his report, the Secretary had not received it so it had not been tabled in writing with the other reports. IB would re-send his report and JP would ensure that it was printed as part of the DCA Annual Report.

No comments possible due to absence of the report.

6.6 PROJECTS OFFICER'S REPORT: *(Verbal report given.)*

6.6.a **Summary Report:** 2010 has been a very busy year; this is a brief summary of the work undertaken:

6.6.b **Eldon Hole trees:** Cutting overhanging trees threatening to fall into Eldon Hole.

6.6.c **Oxlow Boulder:** Inspecting the loose boulder in Oxlow entrance shaft - PICA will be responsible for sorting this.

6.6.d **P8 Stiles:** Stiles on the route to P8 have been repaired by the "Coffin Dodgers".

6.6.e **Carleswark:** Carleswark Big Dig has been inspected and still appears to be stable.

6.6.f **P8 loose boulder:** A loose boulder has been reported in the flats in P8 and MG will have a look at this.

6.6.g **Rubbish:** MG has noted the amount of rubbish left in some caves - it needs clearing.

6.6.h **Garden Path Platforms:** The wooden platforms will be taken out of the shaft (as previously agreed) when the weather is drier.

6.6.i **Odin Mine:** MG explained the position in Odin Mine where there has recently been a major collapse; he had put in temporary bolts to be able to rig a handline and inspect the fall. It is strongly advised that cavers should stay away at present while the situation is assessed by experts, in the hope that access can be reinstated at some time in the future, although it is likely that extensive work will be required.

6.6.j **JH cartgate:** James Hall Over Engine Mine requires more work on the traverse along the cartgate leading to the head of the big pitch: the floor is falling away in places and it will be necessary to install Eco-anchors to enable a safety line to be rigged.

6.6.k **Thanks:** DW expressed his thanks to MG for all the work carried out during the past year.

6.6.l *That the Projects Officer's Report be accepted.* Prop. Terry Jackson, Sec. Chris Wilson. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.7 EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT: *(Verbal report given on his behalf.)*

6.7.a **Report on behalf of Jules Barrett:** BD gave a verbal report on behalf of Jules Barrett and noted that BD attended BCA Equipment Committee meetings on DCA's behalf since they were at weekends when JBa was unable to attend. JBa would send a written version of his report to include with the DCA Annual Report for 2011.

6.7.b **JH cartgate:** The holes have been drilled ready for the bolts, which would be put in next week.

6.7.c **Cliff Cavern:** This is due to be bolted shortly.

6.7.d **DCA Trained Bolt Installers:** Jules Barrett and Phil Baker are already officially trained as bolt installers under the BCA scheme. BD would be able to train others as required.

6.7.e **National Bolt Installation Scheme:** BD noted that CSCC have apparently opted out of the BCA National Scheme and set up their own scheme. BCA is seeking to resolve the problem.

6.7.f **Testing of New Bolts:** A new type of anchor is to replace the DMM Eco-anchor, as these are no longer available. On behalf of BCA, BD has set up a testing installation in a Peak District Quarry at which the new bolts will be thoroughly tested to ensure that they meet the standards required.

6.8 TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT: *(Written report tabled.)*

6.8.a **NA's Report:** Noted that, as usual NA had provided a very detailed report, which included events organised for 2011 in addition to his report on 2010.

6.8.b **Training for Clubs:** It was noted that DCA is the only region to have a Training Officer who organised events for local Clubs.

6.8.c *That the Training Officer's Report be accepted.* Prop. Terry Jackson, Sec. Paul Lydon. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.9 NEWSLETTER EDITOR / PUBLICATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT: *(Verbal report given.)*

6.9.a PL reported that he now has sufficient material for the next issue of the Newsletter but nothing for the one after that. Without material being sent to him, it was not possible to produce a Newsletter. CW offered an item on Odin Mine and would liaise with PL on this.

6.9.b *That the Newsletter Editor's Report be accepted.* Prop. Terry Jackson, Sec. Boyd Potts. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.10 ASSISTANT SECRETARY / PLANNING LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT: *(Written report tabled.)*

6.10.a **Notification:** CB reported that all planning notifications go to JP, as DCA Secretary, who forwards them to CB.

- 6.10.b **Ball Eye Mine:** DW asked about the current situation at Ball Eye Mine. CB reported that there appeared to be no formal application for planning as yet but the situation was unclear.
- 6.10.c **Paper Pulp spreading:** CW queried whether the spreading of paper pulp comes under planning - noting that there is concern over the issue as regards cave conservation. TJ clarified that this is a "waste management" issue and is not subject to planning laws; it appears that local farmers receive payment for allowing the paper pulp to be dumped on their land for them to spread as a "soil improver". He explained that the waste should not be stockpiled but is supposed to be spread on the land and ploughed in as soon as it is delivered. It was known that several years ago the waste had appeared in Peak Cavern, after a quantity had been tipped in the Dirlow Rake area but not immediately ploughed in. This pollution was still apparent in the sumps in Peak Cavern and, at meetings with Natural England, cavers had expressed concern about the effects on the SSSI. It was not known whether this issue affected other caving regions - there had been no reports of it in the caving press. JP and BP would raise this matter with BCA.
- 6.10.d *That the Assistant Secretary / Planning Liaison Officer's Report be accepted.*
Prop. Terry Jackson, Sec. Boyd Potts. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 6.11 CAVE REGISTRY SECRETARY'S REPORT:** *(Written report tabled.)*
- 6.11.a A vote of thanks was given to John Beck and Iain Barker for their work in producing the new "Caves of the Peak District".
- 6.11.b **Amendments:** It was noted that there were some amendments needed.
- 7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**
- 7.1 **Treasurer:** Wayne Sheldon was proposed as Treasurer by Jenny Potts, seconded by Terry Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 7.2 **Remaining Officers:** All remaining officers were willing to stand again and there were no other nominees.
That the remaining officers be re-elected en bloc. Prop. T.Jackson, Sec. D.Webb. *Agreed unanimously.*
- The remaining officers re-elected were:
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|------------------------------------|----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Chairman: | Bob Dearman | Projects Officer: | Martyn Grayson |
| Secretary: | Jenny Potts | Legal & Insurance Officer: | Pete Mellors |
| Vice-Chairman: | Terry Jackson | Training Officer: | Nigel Atkins |
| Conservation Officer: | Dave Webb | Publns. Officer/ Newsletter Editor: | Paul Lydon |
| Asst. Conservation Officer: | Chris Wilson | Asst. Secretary/Planning Liaison: | Chris Broome |
| Access Officer: | Iain Barker | Cave Registry Secretary: | John Beck |
- 7.3 It was agreed that the post of **Events Officer** should be created and that a volunteer be sought to fill the post.
- 8. ELECTION OF THREE ORDINARY MEMBERS OF THE GRANTS PANEL OF THE CAVE DISCOVERY FUND:**
- 8.1 It was unanimously agreed to re-elect the 3 existing ordinary members: **Iain Barker, Terry Jackson & Boyd Potts.**
- 8.2 Noted that the Chairman and Treasurer were ex-officio members of the Panel.
- 9. BCA AGM, 11 JUNE 2011:**
- It was noted that the agenda would not be issued until after 26th. March. Agreed that, should it be felt necessary to discuss the agenda, a Special Meeting of DCA could be convened. The Secretary reminded members that attendance at the AGM and voting was open to all BCA member clubs and all BCA individual members as well as to regional councils and other national bodies.
- 10. APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES/REPRESENTATIVES TO BCA AGM AND BCA COMMITTEES:**
- 10.1 **BCA AGM:** Jenny Potts would attend as the voting representative to the AGM. Karen Slatcher and Terry Jackson would also attend and could speak on behalf of DCA.
- 10.2 **BCA Council:** Jenny Potts.
- 10.3 **BCA Special Committees:** Appropriate DCA officers would attend the Special Committees.
- 10.4 **BCA Working Groups:** Radon Working Party, Pete Mellors; Cave Registry Group, John Beck.
- 11. APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES/REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:**
- 11.1 **SSSI Working Group:** Dave Webb, Chris Wilson & Bob Dearman plus area reps.
- 11.2 **PICA:** Jules Barrett, Bob Dearman, Chris Wilson, Martyn Grayson, Jenny Potts.
- 11.3 **Derbyshire Sport:** Jenny Potts.
- 12. DATE, TIME & VENUE OF MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR:**
- 12.1 **2012 AGM:** Saturday, 25 February 2012 at 10am, Monyash Village Hall.
- 12.2 **Council Meetings:** Agreed that we needed meetings in mid-June and in early November. It was agreed to try a new day/time for the June meeting to accommodate those officers who had to work at weekends: **7pm, Friday 17 June, Monyash Village Hall.** The date and time of the November Council Meeting would be agreed at the June meeting.
- 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**
- 13.1 **CoPD and Handbook:** Defer to the Council meeting following the AGM.
- 13.2 **UCF Meeting:** Confirmed as being 17 May.

Meeting Closed at 13.42pm.

J.Potts, Recorder

**APPENDED TO THESE MINUTES AND FORMING PART OF THEM ARE:
THE DCA OFFICERS' ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2010
THE DCA ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DEC. 2010.**