



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 25th. February 2012, 10am, Methodist Chapel, Monyash

Present: **Clubs:** Eldon Pothole Club Nigel Atkins [NA], (Bob Dearman)
 Masson Caving Group Colum Walsh [CW], David Webb [DW]
 Orpheus Caving Club Paul Lydon [PL], Boyd Potts [BP], Karen Slatcher [KS], (Jenny Potts)
 T. S. G. Jess Eades [JE], Martyn Grayson [MG], Wayne Sheldon [WS]

Individual Members: Bob Dearman [BD], Terry Jackson [TJ], Peter Mellors [PM], Jenny Potts [JP], Mark Fox [MF],
 (Karen Slatcher), (Wayne Sheldon)

1. CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME:

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and established that the meeting was quorate. (The venue for the meeting had to be changed at the last minute due to a double-booking misunderstanding.)

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence received from: Club: Cave & Crag Club; Associate Member: Burton Venture Trust;
Individual Members: Iain Barker, Jules Barrett, John Beck, Chris Broome, John Cordingley, Elaine Hill, Andy Tickle.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM: (26 Feb. 2011. Circulated and on DCA website)

That the Minutes of the AGM, 26 Feb. 2011, be approved as a correct record.

Prop. Boyd Potts, sec. Terry Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*

4. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

There were no matters arising.

5. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

No applications at this meeting.

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. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT: (Verbal report given.)

The Chairman expressed his thanks to all who had contributed to the work successfully carried out by volunteers on behalf of DCA.

6.2 HON. SECRETARY’S REPORT: (Written report tabled.)

6.2.a **Use of email to circulate information, minutes, etc.:** JP pointed out that this saved DCA a great deal on postage, which was set to become even more expensive shortly. It was hoped that all members who had currently had no email address recorded would contact the Secretary to advise her of one she could use to contact them.

6.2.b **BCA Report:** The Secretary had attended all BCA Council meetings during the year. BCA was working through production of a Manual of Operations and was currently dealing with the working of Special Committees, Working Parties, etc. At its last meeting members had agreed that, where an expert was co-opted to a Special Committee, that person should have a vote in addition to the regional and other representatives.

DW expressed his concern that BCA did not write in support of the European Speleological Federation’s letter concerning the dangers of “fracking” (releasing shale gas from rock by pumping water and chemicals at high pressure). He noted that he hears nothing from the BCA Conservation Officer and there has been no meeting of the BCA Conservation & Access Committee since 2009. It was agreed to minute:

That DCA expresses its concern at the lack of liaison between BCA and the Regions in respect of Conservation and Access.

JP would take this view to the next BCA Council meeting.

6.2.c **Peak District Access & Rigging Guide:** JP would arrange a meeting between herself, TJ and PL to finalise the draft ready for publication a.s.a.p.

6.2.d *That the Hon. Secretary’s Report be accepted.* Prop. T.Jackson, Sec. K.Slatcher,. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.3 HON. TREASURER’S REPORT: (Written Report and the Accounts for the year ending 31 Dec. 2011 were tabled.)

6.3.a **Audit:** It was noted that the accounts had now been audited.

6.3.b **Caves of the Peak District Reprint:** After a brief discussion it was unanimously agreed that we should go for a reprint of 1000 copies. JP and WS would initiate the appropriate action.

- 6.3.c **Internet banking:** After a brief discussion it was proposed:
That the Treasurer be authorised to set up Internet Banking in tandem with cheques, subject to appropriate security measures being put in place.
Prop. J.Potts, Sec. D.Webb. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 6.3.d *That the Hon. Treasurer's Report and Accounts be accepted.* Prop. J.Potts, Sec. N.Atkins. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 6.4 CONSERVATION OFFICER'S REPORT:** *(Written report tabled.)*
- 6.4.a **Container to store materials for conservation & access work:** The DCA Container store is now at Cavendish Mill with the approval of the owners of the site. This is a secure site with CCTV coverage. Some shelving is needed for the inside of the Container before it can come into full use. There will be a specific procedural system for accessing the Container and a copy of this will be kept in the DCA Minute Book.
- 6.4.b **Natural England grant:** We have a grant of £7,500 and will have spent all but £500 of this on steel mesh, re-bar, etc. for projects.
- 6.4.c **Expenditure Limits:** Noted that the Treasurer can authorise up to £100 expenditure on projects on his own. Above that limit it should be agreed by Officers and recorded in the Minutes of the subsequent meeting.
- 6.4.d **SSSI Monitoring Forms:** Part of the agreement for the N.E. grant is that we must complete monitoring forms. Jess Eades has 10 to hand over. We will agree which sites need to be done.
- 6.4.e **Ingersoll Rand Rotary Drill:** Noted that this drill, donated by Bob Dearman, needs to be retrieved from Mark Lowe's house (where it is currently stored) and placed in the Container store.
- 6.4.f *That the Conservation Officer's Report be accepted.* Prop. P.Mellors, Sec. T.Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 6.5 ACCESS OFFICER'S REPORT:** *(Written report tabled.)*
- 6.5.a **Contact with IB:** BD commented that IB was not in touch with other officers and had not detailed specific complaints which he claimed had been made to him.
- 6.5.b **Thorswood Mines:** PM noted that, with the new £5m BCA insurance level it should now be possible to arrange an access agreement for the mine with Staffs. Wildlife Trust and he would be working on this.
- 6.5.c *That the Access Officer's Report be accepted.* Prop. J.Potts, Sec. N.Atkins. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 6.6 PROJECTS OFFICER'S REPORT:** *(Verbal report given.)*
- 6.6.a **Requests for work:** MG said that he was not receiving requests for work which needed to be done and also there seemed to be a failure of communications with the Access Officer.
- 6.6.b **Rowter Pot lid:** The lid had not yet been installed so he would pass on the completed lid to BD to arrange for installation.
- 6.6.c **Problems in carrying out work:** MG said that his current job required him to work long hours away from home with lengthy travel involved so he was finding it impossible to find time to carry out the work which should be done by the Projects Officer. He would therefore be standing down from the post but was willing to continue until someone had been found to take his place. He offered to assist in any way he could when time permitted.
- 6.6.d **Positive news re. DCA:** MG felt it was important that DCA ensured that positive news of the work carried out by members and officers was broadcast as widely as possible: on UKcaving, in Descent, etc. as well as on DCA's own website and in our publications. He said there seemed to be a great deal of negative comment on the web by those who did not understand all the work carried out by DCA and we should do our best to counter this.
- 6.6.e *That the Projects Officer's Report be accepted.* Prop. P.Mellors, Sec. J.Potts. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 6.7 LEGAL & INSURANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:** *(Written report tabled.)*
- 6.7.a **Holme Bank Chert Mine:** PM noted that Mr. Oldfield had said that donations to his charity (The Alzheimers Society) are optional but welcome – up to £2 per head from those visiting the mine. The lock on the top entrance has now been renewed so access is via the normal route with the key being collected from Mr. Oldfield.
- 6.7.b **Boulder Pot:** An attempt would be made to uncover the entrance to this site, which had been buried under tons of soils and rocks, on Tuesday. DCA now had permission from the farmer and from Natural England. (The pot was believed to be close to or within the boundary of the SSSI.)
- 6.7.c **BCA C&A:** Access to forestry and other sites had been mentioned at the last BCA meeting though there had been no direct contact by the BCA Conservation Officer with DCA C&A officers. JP would forward the BCA report from the meeting to PM and DW.
- 6.7.d **Staffs. Wildlife Trust:** PM had opened negotiations with S.W.T. for access to Thorswood and sites in the Castern Wood Nature Reserve. He would ensure that progress was reported to DCA members.
- 6.7.e *That the Legal & Insurance Officer's Report be accepted.* Prop. N.Atkins, Sec. B.Potts. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 6.8 EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:** *(Verbal report given on his behalf.)*
- 6.8.a **Eco-anchor replacements:** BD reported on J.Barrett's behalf that there will need to be anchors placed in Giants and Winnats Head; these will not be the eco-anchors but will be the P-anchor replacements for these, called Bolt Products Anchors (BP anchors). The new anchors are not available yet but should be soon. Members will be kept informed of progress.
- 6.8.b *That the Equipment Officer's Report be accepted.* Prop. T.Jackson, Sec. N.Atkins. *Agreed unanimously.*
- 6.9 TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT:** *(Written report tabled.)*
- 6.9.a **NA's Report:** JP commented that there had been a tremendous amount done during the last year and a great deal more planned for the later in the year.

6.9.b **Recreational Caver Training:** NA reported that the BCA Training Committee is re-invigorated and is now pushing recreational caver training.

6.9.c **Club Training Officers:** NA said that BCA will be setting up sessions aimed specifically for club training officers. In particular SRT Self-rescue is now being pushed as "SRT Self Help" and club cavers are now getting wised up about what to do in an emergency.

6.9.d *That the Training Officer's Report be accepted.* Prop. J.Potts, Sec. T.Jackson. **Agreed unanimously.**

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

6.10.a **Information & articles required:** PL emphasised that the Editor of the Newsletter needed to have items sent to him in order to be able to produce a successful Newsletter.

6.10.b *That the Editor's Report be accepted.* Prop. N.Atkins, Sec. M.Grayson. **Agreed unanimously**

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

6.11.a CB reported that he had kept watch throughout the year but nothing which might affect cavers had come up.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

7.1 The following were elected unanimously:

Chairman:	Bob Dearman	Prop. M.Grayson, Sec. N.Atkins
Vice-Chairman:	Terry Jackson	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. N.Atkins
Secretary:	Jenny Potts	Prop. K.Slatcher, Sec. M.Grayson
Treasurer:	Wayne Sheldon	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. B.Potts
Conservation Officer:	Dave Webb	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Mellors
Asst. Conservation Officer:	Chris Wilson	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. D.Webb
Projects Officer:	Martyn Grayson	Prop. P.Mellors, Sec. J.Potts
Legal & Insurance Officer:	Pete Mellors	Prop. N.Atkins, Sec. J.Potts
Equipment Officer:	Jules Barrett	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. K.Slatcher
Training Officer:	Nigel Atkins	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Lydon
Pubns. Officer/ Newsletter Editor:	Paul Lydon	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. K.Slatcher
Asst. Secretary/Planning Liaison:	Chris Broome	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. T.Jackson
Cave Registry Secretary:	John Beck	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. K.Slatcher

7.2 **Access Officer:** Due to lack of nominations for the post it was agreed to leave this vacant for the time being, the work to be covered by the Conservation & Access Team until such a time as we have a nomination. KS offered to deal with applications for access to Ashford Marble Mine and Garden Path and would liaise with IB over the necessary paperwork. JP would notify members and others of the change.

7.3 **Cliffhanger Organiser:** B.Potts volunteered to act as organiser for Cliffhanger for 2012. He was proposed by P.Mellors, seconded by N.Atkins and approved unanimously.

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

8.1 It was unanimously agreed to elect the following 3 as ordinary members: **Dave Webb, Terry Jackson & Boyd Potts.**

8.2 Noted that the Chairman and Treasurer were ex-officio members of the Panel.

9. BCA AGM, 9 JUNE 2012:

It was noted that the agenda would not be issued until late March but it would be on the BCA website. 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.

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 if required; Cave Registry Group, John Beck.

11. APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES/REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

11.1 **UCF and Cave Monitoring:** Dave Webb, Chris Wilson & Bob Dearman plus area reps.

11.2 **PICA:** Jules Barrett, Bob Dearman, Chris Wilson, Jenny Potts.

11.3 **Derbyshire Sport:** Jenny Potts.

12. DATE, TIME & VENUE OF MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR:

12.1 **2013 AGM:** Saturday, 23rd. February 2013 at 10am, Monyash Village Hall.

12.2 **Council Meetings:** Agreed that we would revert to having all Council meetings at 10am on Saturdays at Monyash Village Hall if possible. Suggested dates were: Saturday, 23rd. June 2012 and Saturday 3rd. November. JP would book the suggested dates if possible and notify members.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

13.1 **Inspections for Chatsworth Estates:** PM noted that inspections were required by Chatsworth Estates as a condition of access to Lathkill Head Garden Path, Lathkill Head Top Entrance and Ashford Marble Mine. He had to send a report to Chatsworth Estates in March.

BD and MG would deal with Lathkill Head Garden Path and Lathkill Head Top Entrance.

DW would deal with Ashford Marble Mine.

There being no further business the meeting Closed at 14.25.

J.Potts, Recorder

**APPENDED TO THESE MINUTES AND FORMING PART OF THEM ARE:
THE DCA OFFICERS' ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2011
THE DCA ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DEC. 2011.**

(Note: the Annual Report and Accounts referred to above have been circulated separately, prior to the Minutes being issued.)