



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting, 10am. 1st. March 2014, Monyash Village Hall MINUTES

- Present:**
- Clubs:** Crewe C.P.C. Alan Brentnall [AB] (& T.S.G.)
Eldon P.C. Bob Dearman [BD]
Masson C. G. Jim Borrington [JB]
Orpheus C. C. Boyd Potts [BP], (Ewan Cameron [EC])
P.D.M.H.S. Dave Webb [DW]
- Individual Members:** Terry Jackson [TJ], Pete Knight [PK], Pete Mellors [PM],
Jenny Potts [JP], Wayne Sheldon [WS],
(Alan Brentnall, Bob Dearman)
- Prospective Individual Member:** Mike Higgins [MH]

1. **Chairman's Welcome:** Introduction, quorum and procedures.
 - 1.1 Chairman: In the absence of the Chairman, Terry Jackson (Vice Chairman) took the Chair.
 - 1.2 Quorum: The meeting was quorate with 4 Clubs & 4 Individual Members present.

2. **Apologies for absence:**

Bob Dearman (Chairman, arrived later), Karen Slatcher (Asst. Access Officer), Paul Lydon (NL Editor), Nigel Atkins (Training Officer), Mel Milner (Conservation Officer), Kevin West, Elaine Hill, Adam Russell (PDMHS).

3. **To Approve Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, 23 Feb. 2013:** (*Previously circulated*)
That the minutes of the previous AGM be accepted as a correct record. Prop. B.Potts, A.Brentnall. **Agreed.**

4. **Matters Arising Therefrom:**

None

5. **Election of New Members:**

Individual Member: *Mike Higgins*, Prop. D. Webb, Sec. J.Potts. **Accepted.**

6. **To Approve the DCA Annual Report:**
 - 6.1 **Chairman:** (*Written report tabled.*)
That the Chairman's report be accepted. Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Mellors. **Accepted.**
Propose a vote of thanks to Bob Dearman for his excellent work over the years. Prop. P.Mellors,
Sec. W.Sheldon. **Accepted.**

 - 6.2 **Secretary:** (*Written report tabled.*)
 - 6.2.i **That the Secretary's report be accepted.** Prop. D.Webb, Sec. B.Potts. **Accepted.**
 - 6.2.ii DW asked about UKcaving.com and its use. The general view was that it was extremely useful if used sensibly.
 - 6.2.iii **Propose a vote of thanks to JP for her hard work.** Prop. E.Cameron, Sec. P.Mellors. **Accepted.**

 - 6.3 **Treasurer:** (*Written report and accounts for 2013 tabled.*)
 - 6.3.i JP advised that the Accounts have now been audited.
 - 6.3.ii **That the Treasurer's report be accepted.** Prop. B.Potts, Sec. E.Cameron. **Accepted.**
 - 6.3.iii DW asked about the possible change of banks. WS suggested that we open a new bank account and run it in parallel with the existing one and change the signatories in due course.
 - 6.3.iv JP explained the funding and sales process for Caves of the Peak District.
 - 6.3.v DW asked about BCA funding for conservation/access being limited to £500; WS replied that we could receive more but would have to have a budget for this agreed in advance. Natural England funding would be dependent on particular projects which could be agreed.

6.3.vi DW asked about materials in the container: WS pointed out that assets are listed in the Treasurer's report. There was a need to do a stock check and JP noted that the Projects Officer should be in charge of the materials container. DW was doing this at present and would retrieve the key from Clare Harvey.

6.4.a Conservation Officer: *(Written report tabled.)*

6.4.a.i ***That the Conservation Officer's report be accepted.*** Prop. B.Potts, Sec. A.Brentnall. **Accepted.**

6.4.a.ii DW asked if MM has had any feedback from points raised about the Biodiversity Offsetting paper. JP explained the situation re. the government paper - wide consultation and feedback to individual representations is not expected - the "feedback", if any, will appear in the revised document when it is issued.

6.4.a.iii DW asked about setting up teams to help MM with conservation work - we badly need a Projects Officer to help co-ordinate work. Noted that MM's list is in danger of growing beyond our resources but BP suggested that work is now being covered with the help of clubs. DW emphasised the need to follow proper procedures in SSSI's and liaise with the landowner and Natural England.

6.4.b Cave Atmosphere Monitoring: *(Written report by A. Brentnall tabled.)*

Thanks to AB for a very comprehensive report. Agreed to defer consideration of his suggestion to buy a GasAlertClip to the Council Meeting which will follow after the AGM.

Proposed a vote of thanks to MM and to AB for all the work put in. Prop. J.Potts, Sec. D.Webb. **Agreed.**

6.5.a Access Officer: *(Written report tabled.)*

6.5.a.i ***That the Access Officer's report be accepted.*** Prop. P.Knight, Sec. B.Potts. **Accepted.**

6.5.a.ii DW queried progress with Ball Eye mine, believed to belong to Rockarch (Deepwood Mining Co.). EC has tried to contact D.M.C. but has had no response. He is now in contact with PDMHS for further information but it may be possible to just enter the mine without going through the existing gate.

6.5.a.iii BP queried whether anyone knows who made the Jug Holes gate so that the bolt can be replaced as the thread has gone. He believed J.Wilmot made it but he needs to check.

6.5.a.iv PM queried how we can progress the re-opening of Odin Mine. Notes that he and EC are in contact with National Trust, the landowners. Noted that there are monthly inspections by NT contractor. PM needs to discuss liability issues with someone from NT. WS has some information on present situation to pass on.

6.5.a.v PM has mentioned Pleasley Vale Railway Cuttings Pot in his report - defer discussion till then.

6.5.b Assistant Access Officer: *(Written report tabled.)*

6.5.b.i ***That the Assistant Access Officer's report be accepted.*** Prop. E.Cameron, Sec. P.Mellors. **Accepted.**

6.5.b.ii ***Propose a vote of thanks for excellent work done by Karen Slatcher.***
Prop. P.Mellors, Sec. A.Brentnall. **Agreed**

6.6 Legal & Insurance Officer: *(Written report tabled.)*

6.6.i ***That the Legal & Insurance Officer's report be accepted.*** Prop. B.Potts, Sec. E.Cameron. **Accepted.**

6.6.ii Sidetrack Cave: AB said he had been unable to find the box with the log book - PM explained that it can't be seen from the lane side, you have to go through the gate leading into the quarry and look a few yards along the wall to left. AB noted that the conservation tape is still in place but may need to be checked. Noted new bolts are now in place on the ledge so a rope can't be pulled up by thieves if it is tied to a bottom bolt.

6.6.iii PM asks if he should go ahead on suggested DCA booklet on liability - agreed it would be a good idea to do our own booklet, similar to the BMC booklet, and we can print it ourselves.

Propose PM goes ahead with draft copy. Prop. B.Potts, Sec. E.Cameron. **Agreed.**

6.7 Equipment Officer: *(Written report tabled.)*

6.7.i ***That the Equipment Officer's report be accepted.*** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Mellors. **Accepted.**

6.7.ii BD noted that there had been a suggestion to re-bolt the traverse to Boss Aven in Giants. This was felt to be reasonable.

6.7.iii Noted that there had been a suggestion to replace the aging spits along the traverse in the Crabwalk from Chert Hall to Garlands Pot with BP bolts. PK noted that the existing spits are wearing out. The general feeling of the meeting was that no bolts are needed here and if instructed groups cannot do this traverse without protection they should not be attempting it and the existing worn spits should now be removed.

It was agreed that any discussion to place bolts specifically for instructed caving should first take place in PICA and only if PICA, as a body, wished to bring the suggestion to DCA should DCA then consider it.

6.7.iv There was a need list of DCA qualified bolt installers - BD would send JP a list as an internal document for the use of DCA officers.

6.8 Training Officer: *(Written report tabled.)*

6.8.i **That the Training Officer's report be accepted.** Prop. B.Potts, Sec. B.Dearman. **Accepted.**

6.8.ii DW praised the dry-stone walling course as being very good. Members were pleased to see that a Club Training Officers' course is being run.

6.9 JP noted no other officers' reports have been sent in.

7. Election of Officers for 2014/15:

7.1 Officers to be elected (see DCA Council Minute 7, 11 Nov. 2011) are:

Chairman: **No nomination received.**

BD did not wish to stand again. TJ said he was happy to Chair meetings but did not have the time to take on the full responsibilities of Chairman.

It was agreed to leave the post open for the moment. JP would circulate members to ask for nominations / a volunteer.

The following were elected unopposed:

Vice-Chairman: **Terry Jackson.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. E.Cameron.

Secretary: **Jenny Potts.** Prop. E.Cameron, Sec. B.Dearman.

Treasurer: **Wayne Sheldon.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. D.Webb.

Conservation Officer: **Mel Milner.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. E.Cameron.

Access Officer: **Ewan Cameron.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. W.Sheldon.

Projects Officer: **Pete Knight.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. E.Cameron.

Legal & Insurance Officer: **Pete Mellors.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. B.Dearman.

Equipment Officer: **Bob Dearman.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Knight.

Training Officer: **Nigel Atkins.** Prop. P.Knight, Sec. B.Dearman.

Newsletter Editor: **Mike Higgins.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. D.Webb.

Asst. Sec. Planning Liaison: **Chris Broome.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. W.Sheldon.

Cave Registry Sec.: **John Beck.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. A.Brentnall.

7.2 Any other Officers or Assistant Officers thought necessary for the efficient running of the Association:

7.2.i **Events Organiser (Cliffhanger):** **Boyd Potts.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. B.Dearman.

Note that Cliffhanger 2014 is on the weekend of 21/22 June.

8. Elect Three Ordinary Members to the Grants Panel of the DCA Cave Discovery Fund.

(Current members are Dave Webb, Terry Jackson & Boyd Potts)

That the current members continue in post. Prop. J.Potts, Sec. B.Dearman. **Agreed.**

9. BCA AGM – 15 June 2014: To be held in Yorkshire. Agenda not yet compiled and circulated.

(Note that the Agenda for the 2014 BCA AGM may be downloaded in due course from the BCA website at www.british-caving.org.uk.)

JP explained the system for the BCA AGM: Constituent body representatives, BCA Club representatives and BCA Individual Members all have a vote. Constituent Bodies & Clubs vote in one "house", Individual Members vote in a separate "house" and there must be a majority in both houses for a motion to pass.

10. Appointment of Delegates / Representatives to BCA AGM and BCA Committees:

10.1 **Delegate for the BCA AGM** on Sunday, 15 June 2014 in Yorkshire.

DCA delegate to be Jenny Potts. Prop. B.Potts, Sec. E.Cameron. **Agreed**

10.2 **BCA Council Representative.**

DCA representative to be Jenny Potts. Prop. P.Knight, Sec. E.Cameron. **Agreed.**

10.3 **BCA Special Committees.**

Noted that appropriate DCA Officers normally attend the Special Committee Meetings: i.e. Conservation & Access, Training, Legal & Insurance, Equipment, Publications & Information)

Conservation & Access. Mel Milner.

Training. Nigel Atkins

Legal & Insurance. Pete Mellors

Equipment. Agreed to send an observer. **Boyd Potts.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. E.Cameron.

Publications & Information. Jenny Potts

10.4 **BCA Working Groups:** *(CRoW Working Group, Radon Working Party, National Cave Register Co-ordinating Committee, etc.)*

CRoW W.G. Jenny Potts

Radon W.P. Pete Mellors

Cave Reg. Co-ord. John Beck

11. **Appointment of Delegates / Representatives to Other Organisations:**

11.1 **DCA Underground Conservation Forum** (Incorporating the SSSI Regional Liaison group):

Mel Milner is co-ordinator/convenor.

11.2 **Peak Instructed Caving Affiliation:**

Jenny Potts & Bob Dearman would represent DCA at PICA meetings.

Noted that a number of DCA officers are members of PICA.

11.3 **UK Cave Conservation Emergency Fund:**

David Webb confirmed as DCA nominee.

12. **Date, Time and Venue of Meetings for the year:**

12.1 **2015 AGM:**

Suggest Saturday, 28 February 2015; to be followed by a brief Council Meeting.

12.2 **Council Meetings for 2014** (2 more meetings required - end June and end October).

Suggested 28th. June and 25th. Oct. 2014.

JP would arrange for these dates to be booked.

13. **Any Other Accepted Business:**

None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 13.13 pm.

J.Potts, Recorder.

APPENDED TO THESE MINUTES AND FORMING PART OF THEM ARE:

The DCA Annual Report for 2013: The DCA Officers' Annual Reports For 2013

The DCA Annual Accounts for the Financial Year Ending 31 Dec. 2013.