



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the DCA Annual General Meeting, 10am. 28 February 2015
Monyash Village Hall

Present: Clubs: Darfar P.C. Mel Milner [MM] (Ind.)
Darkside C. M. C. Pete Knight [PK] (Ind.)
Orpheus C.C. Boyd Potts [BP]
P.D.M.H.S. Adam Russell [AR]
T.S.G. Alan Brentnall [AB] (Ind.)

Individual Members: Mike Higgins [MH]
Terry Jackson [TJ] (Chairman)
Pete Mellors [PM]
Jenny Potts [JP]
Wayne Sheldon [WS]

1. Chairman's Welcome:

- 1.1 **Introduction:** TJ welcomed members present. He expressed thanks to all officers for their work.
- 1.2 **Quorum:** Meeting was quorate with 4 clubs and 5 individual members. (1 club rep. arrived later)
- 1.3 **Procedures:** General Meeting procedures re. voting were noted.

2. Apologies for absence.

Apologies received from: Masson C. G., Ewan Cameron, Bob Dearman, Nigel Atkins, Karen Slatcher, Chris Broome, Dave Wall, Adam Russell (will be late).

3. To Approve Minutes of the previous General Meetings: *(Previously circulated)*

3.1 To Approve Minutes of Annual General Meeting 1 March 2014.

That the Minutes of the AGM 1 March 2014 be approved as a correct Record.

Prop. P.Knight, Sec. Mel Milner. **Agreed unanimously.**

3.2 To Approve Minutes of Special General Meeting 1 November 2014.

(Add Mel Milner to attendees list.)

That, with the addition of Mel Milner to the list of attendees, the Minutes of the SGM 1 March 2014 be approved as a correct Record.

Prop. B.Potts, Sec. P.Knight. **Agreed unanimously.**

4. Matters Arising Therefrom:

4.1 AGM 1 March 2014.

4.1.1 None.

4.2 SGM 1 November 2014

4.2.1 None.

5. Election of New Members:

Individual Member: Jon Daniels, (BCA DIM). Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Knight. **Agreed unanimously.**

6. To Approve the DCA Annual Report for 2014: *(All officers' reports tabled as the DCA Annual Report.)*

6.1 Chairman's Report:

6.1.1 *That the Chairman's Report be accepted.* Prop. BP Sec. MM **Agreed unanimously.**

6.2 Secretary's Report:

6.2.1 UKcaving offer:

Agreed to approve the take up of UKcaving offer. Prop. P.Knight, Sec. B.Potts. **Agreed Unanimously.**

6.2.2 **Peak District Access & Rigging Guide update:** Produce a printed update, also to go on website. **Agreed**

6.2.3 *That the Secretary's Report be accepted.* Prop. P.Knight, Sec. M.Higgins. **Agreed unanimously.**

6.3 Treasurer's Report and Accounts:

6.3.1 **Accounts:** BP congratulated WS on a clear set of accounts, which are comprehensive and easy to read. WS noted that Defra have now asked for VAT receipts to be supplied for all claims.

6.3.2 **Unity Trust Bank account:** This is now ready to go.

6.3.3 *That the Treasurer's Report and Accounts be accepted.* Prop. B.Potts, Sec. A.Brentnall **Agreed unanimously.**

6.4.1 Conservation Officer's Report:

6.4.1.a. **Stainless bolts:** JP queried the possibility of electrolytic corrosion; MM said nylon washers were being used.

6.4.1.b. **Belay bolts:** Suggested MM send the list of belay bolts required to BD with request that they be installed this summer.

6.4.1.c **That the Conservation Officer's Report be accepted.** Prop. M.Higgins, Sec. P.Knight. **Agreed unanimously.**

6.4.2 Water Icicle Close Cavern Report:

6.4.2.a. K.Slatcher's report was noted with thanks.

6.5 Access Officer's Report:

6.5.1 **Christmas Swallet:** Noted that the landowner, Mr. Baldacci, is almost impossible to make contact with so no progress made towards access. TJ reports some stone being placed in muddy gateways and on the track but there does not seem to be any at Christmas Swallet. PM reported that the tenant farmer, Mr. Gregory, has no objection to access but there can be no official access at present without formal permission from the landowner.

6.5.2 **That the Access Officers's Report be accepted.** Prop. W.Sheldon, Sec. P.Knight. **Agreed unanimously.**

AR arrived at 11.05

6.6 Legal & Insurance Officer's report:

6.6.1 **Holme Bank Chert Mine access:** PM queried any feed back from HBCM. PK noted that a donation to the charity is still asked for, but there seem to be no problems with this. Re. being asked to sign insurance waiver: groups would have their own insurance cover so it appears to be aimed at individual and sport cavers and no problems have been reported.

6.6.2 **That the Legal & Insurance Officer's Report be accepted.** Prop. B.Potts, Sec. A.Russell. **Agreed unanimously.**

6.7 Projects Officer's report:

6.7.1 **Thanks:** JP commented that PK should be thanked for incredible amount of work he had done.

6.7.2 **Carleswark wooden shoring:** MG would organise labour if DCA can supply some materials. Materials in store can be used and anything extra needed can be supplied by DCA. PK will liaise with MG. **Agreed.**

6.7.3 **Titan shaft repairs:** PK has been in touch with Moose re. any help needed in the way of manpower and finance. JP had informed Moose of potential for help from UKCCEF.

6.7.4 **Projects List:** Discussion deferred to Council Meeting.

6.7.5 **That the Projects Officer's Report be accepted.** Prop. M.Higgins, Sec. P.Mellors. **Agreed unanimously.**

6.8 Training Officer's Report:

6.8.1 **Caver Training Events in 2015:** JP noted that she had already circulated NA's leaflet to members.

6.8.2 **That the Training Officer's Report be accepted.** Prop. B.Potts, Sec. P.Mellors. **Agreed unanimously.**

6.9.1 Equipment Officer's report:

6.9.1.a **Trainers:** JP does not have a current list of trained installers - the Secretary should have a list recorded in the minutes. Two people have asked to be trained as installers but nothing has happened so far. The only current Trainer is Bob Dearman and there was some concern that there should be at least one more in case BD was not able to act.

That BD be asked to provide a list of current Trained Installers and a recommendation for someone to assist him in the role of Trainer. Prop. P.Knight, Sec. B.Potts. **Agreed unanimously.**

6.9.1.b **BCA liaison:** BP pointed out that we need a person to attend BCA meetings as a rep. rather than as an observer. (Next meeting is on 15 March and neither BP nor JP are able to attend as observers.)

6.9.1.c **That the Equipment Officer's Report be accepted.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. A.Brentnall. **Agreed unanimously.**

6.9.2 Cave Atmosphere Monitoring Report:

6.9.2.a **MH said the O₂ meter alarm went off after relatively small drop in O₂ pressure.** AB noted it is sent to industrial standards.

6.9.2.b **WICC was reported to have high levels of CO₂ last summer:** Noted, though this is not mentioned in the WICC report.

6.9.2.c **Slaley Sough, Via Gellia:** Blind shaft called Thunder Shaft was reported to have "bad air" and could do with checking.

6.9.2.d **Meter readings taken by different people at different sites:** AB confirmed in response to PM that this was so.

6.9.2.e **That the Cave Atmosphere Monitoring Report be accepted.** Prop. A.Russell, Sec. P.Knight. **Agreed unanimously.**

6.10 Newsletter Editor's Report:

6.10.1 **Index:** Noted that an index had been started by a previous editor in issues 41/42 of the current series but had never progressed further and did not include the first two series. Members thought a complete index would be very useful.

6.10.2 **Next issue:** No. 136 is due out early March.

6.10.3 **That the Newsletter Editor's Report be accepted.** Prop. B.Potts, Sec. P.Mellor. **Agreed unanimously.**

6.11 Assistant Secretary's Report:

Nothing to report. JP reported that Chris Broome had decided to stand down from the post. It was noted that the planning liaison function was no longer needed as all planning applications now appeared on local authority websites.

6.12 Cave Registry Secretary's Report:

6.12.1 TJ had referred in his report to the recent death of John Beck. JP expressed her appreciation for all the work done by John Beck over many years.

6.13 BCA Representative's Report:

6.13.1 JP's report was noted.

6.13.2 **Eurospeleo 2016 Event:** BP said that the EuroSpeleo information needs to be circulated round clubs. It will be a major event with many of the Yorkshire Potholes rigged for a week.

7. Election of Officers for 2015/16

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

Chairman,	Terry Jackson. Prop. B.Potts, Sec. P.Knight. Agreed unanimously.
Vice-Chairman,	Vacant. <i>(No nominations.)</i>
Secretary,	Jenny Potts. Prop. M.Higgins, Sec. M.Milner. Agreed unanimously.
Treasurer,	Wayne Sheldon. Prop. J.Potts, Sec. M.Milner. Agreed unanimously.
Conservation Officer,	Mel Milner. Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Mellors. Agreed unanimously.
Access Officer,	Ewan Cameron. Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Knight. Agreed unanimously.
Projects Officer,	Pete Knight. Prop. M.Higgins, Sec. W.Sheldon. Agreed unanimously.
Legal & Insurance Officer,	Pete Mellors. Prop. J.Potts, Sec. A.Russell. Agreed unanimously.
Equipment Officer,	Bob Dearman. Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Mellors. Agreed unanimously.
Training Officer,	Nigel Atkins. Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Knight. Agreed unanimously.
Newsletter Editor,	Mike Higgins. Prop. J.Potts, Sec. M.Milner. Agreed unanimously.
Assistant Secretary Planning Liaison	Post discontinued.
Cave Registry Secretary,	<i>That we defer a decision on election until the position of JB's records is clarified following his death.</i> Prop. J.Potts. Agreed unanimously.

PK suggested that a job description for Chairman be issued to encourage applicants. BP offered to act as Vice Chairman at meetings if needed but the post is still considered vacant.

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

7.2.1 **Events Organiser (Cliffhanger): B.Potts.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. M.Milner. **Agreed unanimously.**

7.2.2 **2015 Cliffhanger Event:** This will be at Millhouses, Sheffield on w/e. 11/12 July - BP appealed for helpers and JP would put this into the next DCA Information Circular..

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

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

8.1 WS noted that we have an application for funding this year.

8.2 ***That the same 3 reps. remain in post for 2015/6.*** Prop. M.Milner, Sec. P.Knight. **Agreed unanimously.**

9. BCA AGM – Sunday, 14 June 2015:

To be held in Forest of Dean. Agenda not yet compiled. *(Note that the Agenda for the 2015 BCA AGM may be downloaded in due course from the BCA website at www.british-caving.org.uk.)*

9.1 JP noted that deadline for nominations and proposals is midnight on 28th. March.

9.2 In response to a question from PM, JP said that, as far as she knew, no proposals for changing the constitution have been put forward so far.

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

10.1 **Appoint delegate for the BCA AGM on Sunday, 14 June 2015 in the Forest of Dean:**

That J.Potts be the DCA delegate. Prop. P.Knight, Sec. M.Higgins. **Agreed unanimously.**

10.2 **Appoint representatives for BCA Council, Committees, etc.**

10.2.1 **BCA Council: J.Potts.** Prop. P.Knight, Sec. M.Higgins. **Agreed unanimously.**

10.2.2 Representatives on Special Committees agreed as:

Conservation & Access: Mel Milner

Training: Nigel Atkins

Legal & Insurance: Pete Mellors

Equipment: Agreed to defer until we have the list of installers from BD. PK could attend if need be but not the next meeting on 15th. March.

Publications & Information: Jenny Potts

10.2.3 BCA Working Groups:

CRoW Working Party: Jenny Potts

Radon Working Party (if needed): Pete Mellors

Nat. Cave Register Co-ordinating Committee: Agreed to defer until a DCA Cave registry Secretary had been appointed.

11. Appointment of Delegates / Representatives to Other Organisations:

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

11.2 **Peak Instructed Caving Affiliation:** **P.Knight, J.Potts.**

11.3 **UK Cave Conservation Emergency Fund** - confirm **David Webb** to continue as DCA nominee. **Agreed**

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

12.1 **2016 AGM.** Suggest Saturday, 27 February 2016; to be followed by a brief Council Meeting. **Agreed**

12.2 **Council Meetings for 2015 .** Suggest June 20 and October 24. **Agreed**

13. Any Other Accepted Business:

None.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 12.01pm.

J. Potts, Recorder

Appended to these Minutes and forming part of them is the following Document:

DCA Annual Report for 2014, including the DCA Annual Accounts for the Year Ending 31 Dec. 2014