



# DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the DCA Annual General Meeting, 10am. 27 February 2016  
Monyash Village Hall

- Present:**
- |                            |                   |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Clubs:</b>              | Darkside C. M. C. | Pete Knight [PK] (Ind.)       |
|                            | Eldon P. C.       | Bob Dearman [BD] (Ind.)       |
|                            | Masson C. G.      | Dave Webb [DW]                |
|                            | Orpheus C.C.      | Boyd Potts [BP]               |
|                            | P.D.M.H.S.        | Adam Russell [AR]             |
| <b>Individual Members:</b> |                   | Mike Higgins [MH]             |
|                            |                   | Terry Jackson [TJ] (Chairman) |
|                            |                   | Pete Mellors [PM]             |
|                            |                   | Jenny Potts [JP]              |
|                            |                   | Angus Sawyer [AS]             |

## 1. Chairman’s Welcome:

- 1.1 **Introduction:** TJ welcomed members present.
- 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: Jim Borrington (Masson C.G.), Nigel Atkins (Training Officer), Alan Brentnall, Gary Noble, Wayne Sheldon (Treasurer), Karen Slatcher, Christine Wilson.

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

- 3.1 **To Approve Minutes of Annual General Meeting 28 February 2015.**  
*That the Minutes of the AGM 28 February 2015 be approved as a correct Record.*  
Prop. P.Knight, Sec. B.Potts. **Agreed unanimously.**

## 4. Matters Arising Therefrom:

- 4.1.1 None.

## 5. Election of New Members:

None have applied.

## 6. To Approve the DCA Annual Report for 2015: *(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. J.Potts, Sec. P.Mellors. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.1.2 The members expressed thanks to Terry for holding the fort for the past year.

### 6.2 Secretary’s Report:

- 6.2.1 ***That the Secretary’s Report be accepted.*** Prop. M.Higgins, Sec. D.Webb. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.2.2 No Comments

### 6.3 Treasurer’s Report and Accounts:

- 6.3.1 ***That the Treasurer’s Report and Accounts be accepted.*** Prop. B.Potts, Sec. P.Knight. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.3.2 TJ noted that the Treasurer was absent because of a family crisis but his accounts had been circulated.
- 6.3.3 ***That a vote of thanks be given for the Treasurer’s work during the past year.***  
Prop.D.Webb, Sec. P.Knight. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.3.4 BD queried whether NE had paid for the gate in Bateman’s Adit as this was not specifically detailed in the accounts. JP would query this with the Treasurer.

### 6.4.1 Conservation Matters Report:

- 6.4.1.a ***That the Conservation Matters Report be accepted.*** Prop. M.Higgins, Sec. B.Potts. **Agreed unanimously.**

### 6.4.2 Water Icicle Close Cavern Report:

- 6.4.2.a Thanks to Karen Slatcher for her report.

### 6.5 Access Officer’s Report:

- 6.5.1 No Access Officer’s Report had been received.

## 6.6 Projects Officer's report:

- 6.6.1 **That the Projects Officer's Report be accepted.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Mellors. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.6.2 **The DCA Container** at Cavendish Mill will need to be moved. PK will investigate possibilities.
- 6.6.3 **Eldon Hole:** there are now changed ideas about the type of ground anchors required for maximum safety and durability. BD and PK are discussing possible alternative ways of installing suitable anchors.
- 6.6.4 **Streaks Pot:** DW queried whether Streaks top entrance shoring needs replacing and also whether the lower entrance needs stabilising. PK can put this on his to do list.
- 6.6.5 **J.H.:** DW queried whether the top of JH needs attention to reinforce stabilisation at the top. This would be checked.
- 6.6.6 **Carleswark:** DW also queried whether Big Dig in Carleswark needs attention. This would be checked.

## 6.7 Legal & Insurance Officer's report:

- 6.7.1 **That the Legal & Insurance Officer's Report be accepted.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. A.Sawyer. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.7.2 **Holme Bank Chert Mine access problem:** JP queried progress following the unexpected closure of the usual entrance by the owner of Holme Hall. PM has taken this up with Chatsworth and they have written a letter to the owner of Holme Hall. Noted that Joe Oldfield, who should be asked for permission for access, asks for donations to a charity but anyone actually charging for access may make themselves liable in law. Entry is still possible via the Smiths Level entrance, also controlled by Joe Oldfield. Suggested that DCA could follow up with CDG how divers are getting in to use the site for training. PK will follow up with PICA as the mines inspection allows Smiths Level as an emergency exit for instructed parties but not for use as a general entrance and it is not suitable for wheelchair access. Noted that there are actually two mines: Holme Bank and Holme Hall mine and this may be the source of the difficulty. PM noted that Joe Oldfield had also been in touch with Chatsworth and there are two sets of mineral rights.

### 6.8.1 Equipment Officer's report:

- 6.9.1.a **That the Equipment Officer's Report be accepted.** Prop. P.Knight, Sec. A.Russell. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.9.1.b **Batteries** for drills and connectors still needed - NW is dealing with this.
- 6.9.1.c **Manifold bolts** required are listed and BD has details.

### 6.8.2 Cave Atmosphere Monitoring Report:

- 6.8.2.a **That the Cave Atmosphere Monitoring Report be accepted.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Knight. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.8.2.b **Cromford Sough:** DW queries why gas checks are needed in Cromford Sough - the outflow is not a water supply. AR notes that it comes out into the mill and then into the Derwent. It may be just as a safety measure for those checking the state of the sough. JP would query this with those involved.

## 6.9 Training Officer's Report:

- 6.9.1 **That the Training Officer's Report be accepted.** Prop. P.Knight, Sec. B.Dearman. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.9.2 JP explained that NA was absent because of training for the London Marathon, for which he was seeking sponsorship in aid of mountain rescue.
- 6.9.3 **Bolt Checking:** BD expressed his thanks to NA for checking and testing the bolts in Devonshire and Jug Holes.
- 6.9.4 **Club Training Officers Scheme:** DW notes that NA is very keen on promoting the club training officers scheme.

## 6.10 Newsletter Editor's Report:

- 6.10.1 **That the Newsletter Editor's Report be accepted.** Prop. P.Knight, Sec. B.Potts. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.10.2 There was general approval of the Newsletter and a feeling that it was doing well and increasing circulation so thanks to MH for an excellent job.
- 6.10.3 In response to a query, MH noted that the list of DCA officers is only put into the spring edition and not repeated in other editions.

## 7. Election of Officers for 2015/16

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

<b>Chairman,</b>	<b>Wayne Sheldon.</b> Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Knight. <b>Agreed unanimously.</b>
<b>Vice-Chairman,</b>	<b>Terry Jackson.</b> Prop. J.Potts. Sec. P.Mellors. <b>Agreed unanimously.</b>
<b>Secretary,</b>	<b>Jenny Potts.</b> Prop. M.Higgins, Sec. P.Mellors. <b>Agreed unanimously.</b>
<b>Treasurer,</b>	<b>Angus Sawyer.</b> Prop. W.Sheldon, Sec. P.Knight. <b>Agreed unanimously.</b>
<b>Conservation Officer,</b>	<b>Christine Wilson.</b> Prop. W.Sheldon, Sec. J.Potts. <b>Agreed unanimously.</b>
<b>Access Officer,</b>	<b>Gary Noble.</b> Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Knight. <b>Agreed unanimously.</b>
<b>Projects Officer,</b>	<b>Pete Knight.</b> Prop. M.Higgins, Sec. A.Russell. <b>Agreed unanimously.</b>
<b>Legal &amp; Insurance Officer,</b>	<b>Pete Mellors.</b> Prop. J.Potts, Sec. B.Dearman. <b>Agreed unanimously.</b>
<b>Equipment Officer,</b>	<b>Bob Dearman.</b> Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Mellors. <b>Agreed unanimously.</b>
<b>Training Officer,</b>	<b>Nigel Atkins.</b> Prop. J.Potts. Sec. M.Higgins. <b>Agreed unanimously.</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor,</b>	<b>Mike Higgins.</b> Prop. J.Potts, Sec. B.Potts. <b>Agreed unanimously.</b>

**Cave Registry Secretary,** Left in abeyance for time being.

**Website Manager** Noted that this was not an elected post but **Angus Sawyer** had volunteered to take on this role after the death of Mel Milner and had already begun updating the website.

**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. P.Knight. **Agreed unanimously.**

7.2.2 **2016 Cliffhanger Event:** BP noted that there is no confirmation yet but it is normally held on the 1st. or 2nd. weekend in July

**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 **That the same 3 reps. remain in post for 2015/6.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Mellors. **Agreed unanimously.**

**9. BCA AGM – Sunday, 4 June 2016:**

To be held on Mendip. Agenda not yet compiled. *(Note that the Agenda for the 2016 BCA AGM may be downloaded in due course from the BCA website at [www.british-caving.org.uk](http://www.british-caving.org.uk).)*

9.1 JP noted that deadline for nominations and proposals is midnight on 8th. April 2016.

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

10.1 **Appoint delegate for the BCA AGM on Sunday, 4 June 2016 on Mendip:**

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

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

10.2.1 **BCA Council: J.Potts.** Prop. B.Dearman, Sec. P.Knight. **Agreed unanimously.**

10.2.2 **Representatives on Special Committees agreed as:**

**Conservation & Access: Christine Wilson & Gary Noble**

**Training: Nigel Atkins**

**Legal & Insurance: Pete Mellors**

**Equipment: J.Barratt.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. B.Dearman

**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): Noted that the Convenor is the DCA Conservation Officer, **Christine Wilson.**

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

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

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

12.1 **2017 AGM.** Suggest Saturday, 25 February 2017; to be followed by a brief Council Meeting. **Agreed**

12.2 **Council Meetings for 2016 .** Suggest June 25 and October 22 - to be confirmed with officers not present. **Agreed**

**13. Any Other Accepted Business:**

13.1 **U.C.F.:** JP expressed her thanks to AR for ensuring that UCF business continued by convening a meeting of the Forum in November 2015 in the absence of an elected Conservation Officer.

13.1 **DCA Handbook:** PM queries how the Handbook is being updated now that it is being put on the website. Noted that the officers can send updates to AS for anything within their remit. JP will send a Word version of Handbook to AS to enable him to reorganise the website version for easier updating.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 12.16 pm.

*J. Potts, Recorder*

**Appended to these Minutes and forming part of them is the DCA Annual Report for 2015, including the DCA Annual Accounts for the Year Ending 31 Dec. 2015.**