



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

21st February 2022, 19:30. Online Meeting via Go to Meeting Platform

MINUTES

Present: Clubs

Darkside C.M.C.

Orpheus C.C.

P.D.M.H.S.

T.S.G.

Eldon Pothole Club

Peak Caving Club

Masson Caving Group

Pete Knight [PK]

Jenny Potts [JP]

Shirley Burtonshaw [SBu]

Phil Wolstenholme [PW]

Victoria Kocher [VK]

Ed Carr [EC]

Fabian Ehlers [FE]

Individual Members

Angus Sawyer [AS]

Wayne Sheldon [WS]

Mike Higgins [MH]

Martin Long [ML]

Jenny Potts [JP]

Nigel Atkins [NA]

Ann Soulsby [ASu]

Scott Bradley [SB]

Observers

Nige Berry [NB]

Alan Brentnall [AB]

1. Chair's Welcome: Introduction, quorum & procedures.

1.1 Welcome: WS welcomed those present.

1.2 Quorum & Procedures: OK with 7 Clubs and 8 Individual Members.

2. Apologies for absence.

2.1 None.

3. To Approve Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting: *(previously circulated).*

3.1 *That the Minutes of the AGM of 22 February 2020, subject to these corrections, be approved.*

Prop. J. Potts, Sec. M. Higgins. **Agreed.**

4. Matters Arising Therefrom:

4.1 None.

5. Election of New Members

6. To Approve the DCA Annual Report:

(The report was tabled at the meeting together with a detailed breakdown of the accounts.)

6.1 **Chair.** *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

6.2 **Secretary.** *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

VK offered to help write up the minutes throughout the year from the recording.

6.3 **Membership Secretary.** *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

6.4 **Treasurer / Webmaster.** *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

JP added that her publications report shows we have sold £631 worth of COPD but it should be £593 as the DCA Accounts for 2021. The additional £38 is sales in 2022.

AS will aim to have the new DCA website online at the end of March.

The hydrology section of PDCi is ready to be turned on. WS to check the site prior to giving the go ahead.

Action: WS

PW raised that somebody has been complaining on UKCaving about not receiving a newsletter after paying £10. This is due to lack of articles being submitted and the editor can't write it himself. Some members pay an additional £10 with their membership and this money will build up on the subscribers list for each member. We need to look at having a subscribers list only, and no money paid with membership for the newsletter. JP and MH to discuss.

Action: MH / JP

- 6.5 **Access Officer.** *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*
- 6.6 **Conservation Officer.** *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*
- 6.7 **Projects Officer.** *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*
- 6.8 **Equipment Officer.** *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

SB told the meeting that the bolts had been delivered and suggested that we buy a safe to store them. This will be at the TSG with the technical equipment. The meeting was in agreement.

- 6.9 **Cave Atmosphere Monitoring.** *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*
- 6.10 **Cave Registry Secretary.** *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*
- 6.11 **Training Officer.** *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

This is NA 32nd year as training officer. JP raised that the training events haven't been advertised but are in the report and there is a funding issue. This to be discussed in council.

- 6.12 **Newsletter Editor.** *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

We are struggling for material for N/L.

- 6.13 **Publications & Sales Officer.** *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*
- 6.14 **BCA Update.** *(Printed in the Annual Report.)*

All reports were approved in one go. Prop: P. Knight, Sec: V. Kocher. **All Agreed.**

7. **Election of Officers for 2022/2023:**

Chair:	W Sheldon	Vice-Chair:	M Higgins
Secretary (acting):	W Sheldon	Treasurer:	A Sawyer
Joint Access Officer:	A Soulsby	Joint Access Officer:	R Rodgers
Conservation Officer:	V Kocher	Equipment Officer:	S Bradley
Project Officer:	P Knight	Cave Registry Secretary:	P Wolstenholme
Newsletter Editor:	P Wolstenholme	Training Officer:	N Atkins
Membership Secretary:	M Higgins	Publication Sales:	J Potts
Cave Monitoring:	P Dell	Minute Secretary:	Vacant

All officers were proposed in one go. Prop: F. Ehlers, Sec: A. Brentnall. **Unanimous**

8. **Cave Discovery Fund Constitutional Approval**

This was consulted and approved at the June 2021 Council Meeting. This is a rubber-stamping exercise.
Prop. J. Potts, Sec: A. Sawyer. *Unanimous*

9. **Appointment of Three Ordinary Members to the Grants Panel of the DCA Cave Discovery Fund.**

The current members are Dave Webb, Mike Higgins, and Scott Bradley, and it was **agreed** that this will remain the case for 2022.

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

DCA have one representative on the BCA Council, but no vote at the AGM.

- 10.1 **BCA AGM** will be held in June 2022, exact date to be decided.

10.2 **BCA Council.**

Mike Higgins will represent DCA. Jenny Potts and Nige Atkins are both individual members representative to BCA council.

10.3 **BCA Special Committees.**

(Appropriate DCA Officers normally attend the Special Committee Meetings: i.e., Conservation & Access, Training, Equipment). DCA Officers to attend as required.

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

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

DCA Conservation Officer, V Kocher is the convener.

11.2 **Peak Instructed Caving Affiliation**

Pete Knight will report back, but other officers are welcome to attend.

- 11.3 **UK Cave Conservation Emergency Fund**

Wayne Sheldon to continue representing DCA. It is a five-year term.

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

12.1 2023 AGM. Monday 20 February 2023; to be followed by a brief Council Meeting. Location / meeting type to be confirmed.

12.2 Council Meetings for 2022.

Sat 21st May 2022 at 10 am, to held at the BCA Library, Glutton Bridge. Event to held afterwards.

Mon 21st October 2022 at 19.30. Online council meeting.

15. Any Other Accepted Business:

15.1 No other business was discussed.

The A.G.M. concluded at 20:33

W. Sheldon, Recorder

**Appended to these Minutes and forming part of them is
the DCA Annual Report for 2021, including
the provisional DCA Annual Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2021`.**

DRAFT



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

DCA Annual Report, Monday 21st February 2022, Section 6.0 Officers' Reports

DCA Chairman's Report

Firstly, I would like to thank all the officers of DCA who have gone above and beyond in their voluntary roles this year. Can you believe the coronavirus pandemic has been with us two years now and it's changed the way we work within DCA, we have continued to hold meetings online with great success. We are looking to maybe hold at least one of the meetings at a meeting location to be decided in May, this may coincide with an event.

Throughout the year, I have been borrowing surveys from the John Beck collection that are now stored in the BCA Library. Martin Long and Shirley Burtonshaw have done a substantial amount of cataloguing and I believe this is still ongoing. I have scanned these as PDF and TIFF Files. To date, I have scanned 72 surveys while 47 of them have been updated to the PDCi site. A list can be found at <https://www.peakdistrictcaving.info/home/news/new-resources>

All the scanned surveys will also be passed to the BCA Library so they can be archived on their servers.

The Peak District Caving Website has grown as a resource this year, with more content been added on a weekly basis. I have been adding references / bibliography entries to cave / mine sites, this is mainly from the publications that I receive on subscription or through my memberships of other organisations.

I am told that a new DCA website is imminent, Pete Knight and Angus Sawyer have been working on a more user-friendly site.

During last year, following the DCA Underground Conservation Forum Meeting. We introduced a couple of competitions, one was to encourage the filling in of cave monitoring forms, the winner would receive a £50 Starless River Voucher, this competition came to an end at the end of Dec 2021, and winner is due to be announced. The other competition is the re-introducing of the old Hitch N Hike most cave found in the Peak District competition in a calendar year. The winner will win 200 m of rope, terms and conditions are on the DCA Website.

Ash Dieback – on the back of a warning coming out from BCA about Ash Dieback in and around cave entrances. Using the cave registry, and with the help of a number of officers and local cavers, we are gradually compiling a list of entrances that have an issue.

I am still undertaking the role of acting secretary. I have advertised the secretary role on social media platforms, caving forums and the membership secretary has forwarded these to all our members. No volunteers have been forthcoming. Due to me covering the secretary role, Mike Higgins agreed to represent DCA on BCA Council for the next few years.

I am willing to stand as Chair for 2022, I really want to give up the acting secretary role as my work life as gone really busy and I have other caving related projects, and projects outside of caving that I need to undertake.

Action List Updates:

59/60 – Masson Mine. On-going and see access officer report.

71 – Scanning surveys, see above. I'm going to mark this as complete.

95 – Ash Dieback, see above. This is on-going.

Wayne Sheldon

11/02/2022

DCA (Acting) Secretary Report

All our meetings this year have been online, and they have mainly been attended by DCA Officers with a few club representatives and individual members also joining.

Agenda's, action lists, officer Reports have been prepared for all meetings and minutes written up. These have been circulated by the membership secretary to the members and shared online via Facebook and UK Caving.

Wayne Sheldon

11/02/2022

DCA Membership Secretary Report

Individual membership of DCA currently stands at 48 members plus 2 honorary members, an increase of 4 since the last AGM. At the time of writing, 12 individual members are yet to pay their subscription for 2022, round about normal for this time of year.

5 individual members are still paying their annual subscription by Standing Order into the old RBS account despite email and postal requests over the last 3 years or so to change to the Lloyds account. Next step is to contact them by telephone to try and resolve the issue.

Associate members are static at 8 and club members stand at 33, an increase of 1 since the last AGM.

Since the last meeting I have circulated information to members on various issues, including the agendas for this meeting and the following Council meeting, the British Caving Association AGM, the BCA online ballot results, the DCA Council minutes from 27/9/2021, the Peak District Cave Exploration Prize and the Peak District SSSI Competition.

Since the last DCA Meeting on 28th September 2020 I have scanned 12 further issues of The DCA Newsletter (as it then was, prior to renaming as The Derbyshire Caver) and these have been uploaded to the DCA website by Angus. This takes us back to Issue 53 from October 1983.

Mike Higgins

07/02/2022

Treasurer Report

Annual accounts as provided. The increased income reported for 2021 is largely consists of BCA funding for the purchase of the Lyon Obelisk and replacement of the drill and batteries for anchor installation. Expenses for project and equipment work remain low with the continued COVID-19 pandemic. BCA support for the provision of caver training expenses in 2021 will be included as part

of the BCA claim for 2022. We are still receiving payment by standing order to the old bank account from five members.

I am willing to stand as Treasurer for the new year.

Angus Sawyer
7th February 2022

Derbyshire Caving Association – Annual Accounts

Income and Expenditure for the financial year ending 31st December 2021

Income	2021	2020
Subscriptions & Entry Fees (Ind. members)	496.00	407.00
Publication Sales		
Newsletter "The Derbyshire Caver"	140.00	120.00
Conservation Audits	0.00	0.00
Caves of the Peak District	593.60	834.60
Surveys	66.00	0.00
	799.60	954.60
Donations		
(from members)		
to General Fund	27.00	15.00
to Cave Discovery Fund	0.00	10.00
to Cave Conservation Emergency Fund	0.00	0.00
(from non-members)		
to Youth Development Fund	0.00	0.00
	27.00	25.00
BCA Grants		
Core Funding (admin and C & A)	5580.76	1709.06
Training	220.00	0.00
Youth Development	0.00	0.00
	5,800.76	1,709.06
Awards and Grants from non-caving bodies		
Natural England SSSI 2018/19	0.00	0.00
Natural England SSSI 2019/20	0.00	48.10
	0.00	48.10
Caver Training Course Fees	880.00	880.00
Other	0.00	0.01
Total Income	8,003.36	3,143.77
Cash flow		
Total cash assets brought forward	24,388.59	27,245.85
Income	8,003.36	3,143.77
Expenditure	(2,627.26)	(6,001.03)
Interest in deposit accounts	0.00	0.00
Total cash assets carried forward	29,764.69	24,388.59

Notes

1. Includes payment for Lyon Obelisk and Hilti Drills

Derbyshire Caving Association – Annual Accounts

Income and Expenditure for the financial year ending 31st December 2021

Expenditure	2021	2020
General Administration		
Travel	0.00	0.00
Post	0.00	13.00
Phone / Email	0.00	0.00
Materials, printing, copying etc.	30.10	37.50
	30.10	50.50
Conservation and Access		
Travel	275.90	540.75
Post / phone / email / administration	0.85	0.00
Materials	240.66	3265.82
	517.41	3,806.57
Cave Conservation Plans / UCF		
Travel	0.00	0.00
Post / phone / email / paperwork	0.00	0.00
Materials	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00
Equipment, Anchor installation etc		
Travel	27.70	88.21
Post / phone / email / paperwork	0.00	0.00
Materials	201.83	1899.56
	229.53	1,987.77
Publications		
Newsletter	309.29	46.40
Conservation Audits	5.18	0.00
Caves of the Peak District	0.00	0.00
Other	18.75	0.00
Website expenses	0.00	19.19
	333.22	65.59
Training, PICA Liaison, Youth Development		
Travel	0.00	0.00
Post / phone / email / administration	0.00	0.00
Training Events, Instruction etc.	1267.00	60.00
Youth Development: Cliffhanger etc.	0.00	0.00
	1,267.00	60.00
Cave Conservation Emergency Fund	0.00	0.00
Cave Discovery Grants	0.00	0.00
Donations to other organisations, causes etc.	250.00	10.00
Bank Charges	0.00	0.00
Exceptional Items	0.00	20.00
Total Expenditure	2,627.26	6,000.43

Derbyshire Caving Association – Annual Accounts

Balance Sheet for the financial year ending 31 December 2021

Assets	2020	2020
RBS current account	128.24	84.24
RBS deposit account	0.01	0.01
Lloyds current account	29,736.44	24,404.34
Cash	0.00	0.00
Accounts receivable	0.00	0.00
Total assets	29,864.69	24,488.59
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	0.00	0.00
Peak Hydrology Fund	(100.00)	(100.00)
Total cash assets less liabilities	29,764.69	24,388.59
Note that the balance carried forward includes:		
Cave Discovery Fund	0.00	313.29
Cave Conservation Emergency Fund	0.00	1,002.66
Publications (valued at nominal trade prices)		
Cave Conservation publications	0.00	0.00
Caves of the Peak District	0.00	5,850.00
	0.00	5,850.00
Total Assets at 31 December	29,764.69	30,238.59

DCA Webmasters Report

DCA website

The DCA web site now has issues 55 to 155 of the Derbyshire Caver available. No other major changes have taken place. Work on the replacement site is ongoing, although work stalled in the last quarter of 2021.

Peak District Cave

The site has continued to perform as expected, with few user facing changes. A hydrology database of water tracing studies has been developed and now requires little work before release. In July we started to hit quota for free use of OS maps from Microsoft BING and since then OS mapping has been sourced from the Ordnance Survey OpenData API.

Angus Sawyer
7th February 2022

Publication Sales

Caves of the Peak District

During the course of 2021 DCA sold 48 copies of Caves of the Peak District, all bar one at Trade Price, producing an income of £631.00. So far since 2010 we have sold over 1600 copies, totalling over £20,000 and giving a respectable profit for DCA. We had just over 450 copies left at the end of the

year - and it continues to sell steadily, giving enough for at least a further 8 years at present rates. We are now considering a new edition but can continue to sell the 2010 edition for the time being.

Conservation Audits

All five DCA Cave Conservation Audits, except for the Stoney Middleton one, are now on the DCA website for free download so no printed copies have been sold. We still have 2 remaining printed copies of the Masson Audit for sale and can provide printed copies of this, the Manifold/Hamps, Cumberland/Wapping and Jugholes at cost if asked.

The “Derbyshire Caver”

This is now available as a free download from the DCA website. In 2021 we had 19 paying subscribers for printed copies (£10.00 for 4 issues) plus 8 copies sent free to DCA clubs which have Libraries and also 7 copies to other public Libraries.

15 printed copies go out for sale to shops, but these are on a sale-or-return basis, so sales vary, and the income isn't received until the next issue is taken to the shop for sale. Because of Covid lockdown affecting shop sales, no. 155 was delivered to shops in August 2021, and we will not collect payment for these until No. 156 is issued.

Survey Sales

John Beck had printed 50 copies of two classic Derbyshire cave surveys ready for sale by Hitch 'n' Hike: his own compilation survey dated 2012 of The Devils Arse in the Peak (A0) and the Giants/Oxlow (A1) survey produced by Eldon in 1968. (These came to DCA via the British Caving Library after John had bequeathed his collection to BCRA in 2015.) We priced them at £3.00 each, including postage and sold 27 copies altogether, resulting in a total to DCA after postage expenses of £60.00. We still have some copies left.

I am happy to continue dealing with publications sales for DCA as I have the sales and printing contacts and the invoicing system sorted and can, if need be, print copies of the Conservation Audits.

Jenny Potts
26/01/2022

Conservation Officer Report:

Water Icicle Close Cavern- An action was registered to look into more wardens for WICC. Ann Soulsby who controls the access has confirmed that they have two new volunteers so there is a full quota now.

Giants Hole Interpretation board- I contacted the owner of Peakshill Farm and he was more than happy to approve signs at Giants Hole. Thanks to Pete Knight for the great work on creating the images and text and Pete Dell for the fabrication so we now have two boards. One will be placed at the trespass collection point. This should be completed within the week. The other has suggested to be placed at the entrance to the cave itself. I would like the input from the Officers if I should go ahead and bolt it at the entrance. Once approved I will place it.

Intake Dale lid- 10.10.21 This was serviced by drilling the nuts and placing pins in. The lid at Cussey Pot was also had a minor adjustment so it would close properly.

Lathkill Dale- Replaced the bolt at Batemans House as it was only hand tightened. Replaced the bolt on the mid-level shaft.

UK Caving- It has been suggested that the DCA has its own board for the forum. Officers were in agreement that this should go ahead. Action to be taken by the Officers to vote on images for board.

Cave Monitoring Forum Competition- I can't say it was embraced with much fervour. I received two submissions. Only one contained photos. The competition was promoted on UKCaving and FB posts as well as on our DCA page. At the end of January, the £50 Starless River prize was awarded to Katie Eavis for her submission of Winnats Head Cave which included photos. I would like to continue with a prize competition to promote this scheme. Officers to vote on this.

Peakshill Farm- The gate to Giants Hole is in need of repair. This gate is used constantly by cavers, and I propose the DCA pays to have it serviced. I have received a bid to fix it from Stuart Chapman. Stuart is a long-time local farmer and knows the tenant farmer at Peakshill as well. The quote would be £250 maximum. Officers to vote on this.

UCF meeting- Date to be confirmed by John Gunn. He has proposed 30th of March or the 13 of April. By suggestion this meeting would be held remotely on Zoom to encourage more statutory bodies to attend.

Standing as Conservation Officer- I am happy to remain as Conservation Officer for the DCA.

Victoria Kocher
06/02/2021

Access Officer Report

Ashford Black Marble Mine. Still awaiting finalisation of access agreements before we can progress the new stainless-steel plaques which Victoria and Pete have researched. The price of new plaques are estimated to cost around £60.00 to £70.00 for an A5 sized brass or stainless-steel plaque for the access details/safety warnings on ABMM & GP.

Bincliffe Mines. Action point 94 – Roy and I continued to research the area with the help of Martin Long. It appears that the majority of the shafts have been filled in or capped so the only access is via the adits. We were advised to contact Pete Mellors to ask his advice and he was of the opinion that he could see no point in extending the licence to include the Bincliffe Mines. We therefore wrote to Chatsworth to inform them of this decision. The [link](#) takes you to the email and the Bincliffe Report. We are still awaiting a response from Chatsworth.

Covid-19 Restrictions. No current access restrictions in place.

Cussey Pot. In December Mark Noble contacted me to ask if I could write to the landowner to request caver access to Cussey Pot in Eyam. I received a reply late December giving his approval. During January we collated the information required for adding the site onto the DCA Cave Registry. This was made live on the Cave Registry and advertised on UK Caving on 27 January 2022.

Devonshire Estate Reports. Not due until March 2022.

Devonshire Estates Access Agreements. In October I wrote to Ben Garstang at Chatsworth to inform him that following research around the Bincliffe area we did not want to include this area in the access agreement. Ben has recently been in contact with regards to combining the three access agreements, ABMM, Lathkill Upper & Garden Path. I therefore presume that he is in agreement with not including Bincliffe, however this has not yet been officially confirmed. I have recently provided Chatsworth with an updated Safety & Conservation Statement for inclusion in the new

agreement. I have also informed them that the local police can no longer locate the emergency keys for ABMM & Garden Path and that the police suggested that Derbyshire Cave Rescue (DCRO) would be the preferred option to hold the emergency keys.

Eldon Quarry. Still need to check that the book, pens, and survey are still in the box on the main Slitherstones Lane gate.

Eyam Dale House Cave. Martyn Grayson and Ben Marks sorted out the overgrown path in September 2021. They also completed a litter pick.

Garden Path. From Jenny's last list of key holders, that she could find DCA should have 4 keys in their possession. Unfortunately, I can only locate one key, held by Pete Mellors. According to the agreement we should only have 2 keys, so I have arranged for 2 copies to be cut from the DCRO one. One for DCA and an extra one for DCRO (Replacement for the local police station one). Pete Knight is currently in possession of these as they will need checking to make sure that they work.

Lathkill Head Upper Entrance. Pete Knight is hoping to check the cracks in Lathkill Head Upper entrance, reported by Pete Wagstaff. He will combine this visit with the check of the spare keys that we have just had cut.

Long Rake Bradwell Moor. Action Point 80 – At the last meeting it was agreed that Roy and I should try to contact the new owner to try to get access for DCRO to assess the atmosphere in the mine using some new equipment they now have which allows for remote sampling. Roy and I re-visited the actions taken up to December 2010 by Nick Williams and DCRO. We then attempted to contact the present owner. All the information was issued as a report to DCA Officers in December to determine future actions required. Following this report Mike Higgins began some research into the ownership of the land / mines / mineral rights. The next step is to discuss access with the Mine Owners.

Masson. Action point - 59/60 – Gentlewoman's shaft – awaiting response from owner regarding re-capping. Wayne and Phil have been surveying and prospecting the shafts etc. in Masson Quarry and have reported that the main passage above Old Jant Mine (after the two low squeezes if heading downhill) has been completely blocked by a substantial collapse of sediment, rocks, and gravel. They report that the choke will be inspected shortly with a view to clearing the route. The website has been updated accordingly. Awaiting further updates.

Nettle / Oxlow / Maskhill Lay by. Martyn Grayson and Ben Marks completed a litter pick of the lay by.

P8. Martyn Grayson and Ben Marks cleared the car parking area and cut back the vegetation.

Thistle Pot. Phil Reports that the entrance is in danger of being buried in some new earthworks. He tells me that Sue Smith is aware of this and is investigating. Still waiting for an update from Sue via Phil.

Waterways Swallet. In November CCPC visited Waterways Swallet to clear the parking area. Weeds were cut back, over growing branches at entrance cleared and the soak-away emptied of debris. Ground at back of parking area is and always will be soft and not really suitable for parking on. They managed to get 4 vehicles parked without any issues. The gate posts are solid and while the gate latch and catch are not in direct alignment, but they had no problem opening it.

Water Icicle Close Cavern. Karen Slatcher decided that she no longer wished to control access to the gated extensions of WICC. I have been handed all the information and for the time being I am controlling access.

We have managed to identify two new guides, Gordon Fiander and Martyn Grayson, who have been trained up by Pete Wagstaff. In the meantime, Simon Brooks retired as a guide. We now have a total of five guides.

During November Mike Rogerson, a Professor from Northumbria University contacted me with a request to set up a research project about the impact of reforesting limestone landscapes. This would involve monitoring in the Northwest Passage extensions and also some work on the surface. Pete Wagstaff has taken Mike into the cave and made arrangements for him to carry out any monitoring on his own in the future.

Ann Soulsby and Roy Rodgers
29th January 2022

Project Officer Report

Snelslow Swallet

Still awaiting a quote for a lid.

New stile still pending approval from landowner.

Wapping Mine gate / new entrance at Cumberland Cavern

No progress since last meeting. Awaiting official request from landowner via Nige. Possibly put this on the back burner until more progress is made with identifying landowners and getting written permissions. This is a job I'm waiting to help with on the practical side but have not been involved with to date.

Pindale End Mine & Redseats Vein

No progress capping the 3 shafts since last meeting. Permission just granted for the 2 roadside ones, but the landowner is happy to leave the field shaft capped as it is. Work will likely be undertaken during March. The work at the 2 shafts will make them secure against public access with a Derbyshire Key, and integrate a belay bar, so caver descents (with the lid shut after they go down) will be possible. The sites were already bolted by me previously with stainless expansion anchors and do not need DCA anchors.

Phil has identified yet another open hole on this land, so we may have another shaft to look at / make safe.

Lathkill checks

I have volunteered to check the new keys fit the Garden Path lid and also to take a look at an area of cracked rock inside the Lathkill Top Entrance cap. Both will be done at the same time over the next few weeks.

Rowter Hole fence

A request came in over the last few days to get the fence at Rowter Hole fixed. I have no objection to this but it has been raised that it might not be needed, as it was cavers who put it up when the shaft was re-capped. Please can we discuss this and can I have your thoughts on whether this needs to go on the jobs list or not.

Action Register Items

48 – Container. Ongoing. Checked during August 2021 and in good order and secure at current site. Update: seeking a commercial solution so that we can rapidly move it when needed.

Apologies for not being as active as I may have been in the past. Work has reached a rather crazy level since the end of the lockdowns. I am happy to stand again for this post, or to sidestep into another role if suitable. If anyone else wishes to take on the Projects title then they would be welcome, but I am standing for election again.

Outside of the Projects duties, I have continued to support the Equipment Officer wherever needed. I am trying to finalise the installation of 2 new deviation anchors in Oxlow and find time to remove some of the old Spit anchors from the Crabwalk traverses in Giants.

Pete Knight
10/02/2022

Equipment Officer Report

We have had a relatively quiet period with bolting and equipment in general. We are only just starting to get back into the swing of things, and the current situation is as follows.

We have placed a revised order with Bolt Products using a revised numbering scheme. Not only have we effectively run out of 3-digit numbers but the cost of this is becoming somewhat prohibitive again, so we have decided to proceed with an order of 198 pieces, numbered A01 - A99, and B01- B99. This will deliver us a sufficient stock to last the next few seasons and doesn't tie us up with the originally envisioned expense. With this in mind we expect the cost to be around 1/5th of the approved expense. Jim (from Bolt Products) has been rather unwell, but I believe these are now on the move!

In terms of outstanding tasks, Oxlow is still awaiting attention and is pencilled in with Pete for March unless James can do it sooner.

Hope Shaft has been raised for discussion around bolting - this would be beneficial to discuss during the upcoming meeting.

A number of non-DCA lookalike bolts have appeared in Jugholes and Devonshire, these have been placed using visibly similar bolts to the approved bolt - however, there are many dozens of variations and techniques for installation and so with this in mind, and with no documentation for said bolts, I feel we are obliged to chop and remove these for the sake of safety in our region. Again, your thoughts on this as a group are appreciated.

Also, there are a number of Spits proposed to be removed from Giants "on the list".

In BCA news, following a change in the group structure (The group is now 1 group, rather than 2 separate groups) the new Training and E&T working group (being called Training and Equipment group to keep it more simple i.e., T and E group) recently held their first meeting. An outcome of this was that we were asked our opinion on the following topic. I have yet to reply to Mark Richards but will do so following our discussion.

- Do you have enough anchor installers in your region?
- If you answer no to the above question, have you a plan to expand and bring new installers on board. If so, do you require any assistant in order to achieve this.
- What anchor and resin are you using within your region?
- Do you have a stock of anchors?
- Do you have a stock of resin?
- Do you require any training in view of anchor installation?

- Have you records of the anchors installed in your region?
- Do you have a process / policy in view of anchor installation within your area?
- Do you feel the new T&E group / BCA need to address any areas in view of anchors and installation?
- The most current BCA anchor policy (2013) do you take the view this should be updated.
- Please add any other information you feel would benefit the group and your region ref this topic.

Some of these questions are quite easy to field but I'm keen to hear the collective view on some of the other areas from anybody with any particularly strong interests.

I intend to stand in the role for another year subject to the usual discussion at the AGM. I have been very busy of late but I do expect to have some time again soon, and so would very much like to keep things moving. That said, as always, I would like to extend my thanks to the bolting teams and especially Pete Knight, Phill W and James Blake amongst many others who have all made a vast and valuable contribution to Peak bolting over the past 12 months. Again, of note, is Pete's personal contribution of time and effort in a number of recent equipment challenges and this is very much worthy of thanks.

Scott Bradley
11/02/2021

Cave Atmosphere Monitoring Report.

Nothing really to Report. I have added a couple of readings to the sheet from Gordon Fiander. Gordon said he would take readings for me when he goes caving in the Monyash area

Pete Dell
10/02/2022

Training Officer Report.

It has again been a very difficult year for everyone, and we live in strange times. New club training officers have been in touch which is encouraging to see that enthusiasm is out there for caver training.

DCA Training

Most clubs have a training officer or a training rep whose duties include setting up and maybe even running training events for their members. Many University caving clubs have training officers that have attended our DCA workshops, and we have been proud to help them in the setting up of their own training guidelines based on the DCA guidelines. If you need any help or assistance with your club training events, the DCA can offer you many years of experience and current caving 'good practice. For your more experienced members, it may be useful to get them involved with our coaching guidelines and workshops as these will help 'train the trainers' of your club.

DCA Caver Training Workshops

I have been available as the DCA training officer to club cavers and training officers/coaches to help with their events and I have run a few workshops at my surface training area rather than underground practical. Continuity in techniques is important so that cavers don't get confused with differing opinions about things. This is where the workshops are so valuable to be able to help keep techniques to a high standard. DCA has been a very active region for running lots of successful caver training workshops in various topics such as SRT training, SRT rigging, rescue and specialist subjects

such as photography etc. Sometimes, individual cavers are not able to attend organised club events or clubs themselves do not have anyone at the appropriate level to run training in certain topics. The DCA caver training workshops provide these people valuable opportunities and I encourage everyone to support them in any way they can.

Some of the November & December workshops have been rescheduled to March and April.

Weather and Cave Flooding Workshop - Saturday March 19th

Derbyshire. An opportunity to spend the day with Dave Baines, the author of the brand-new book ' Flood hazard, a caver's worst nightmare'. - *phone for details as this is a very specialised event with limited places.* £30

Cave Formation and Development Workshop - Saturday April 2nd

Derbyshire - *phone for details as this is a very specialised event with limited places.*

This workshop is being run by Jo White and Andy Farrant from the BCRA. £30

Exploring Abandoned Mines Date - Saturday April 9th

Derbyshire. Another opportunity to spend the day with Dave Baines, one of the former instructors to set up the mine's awards for BCA. - *phone for details as this is a very specialised event with limited places.* £30

DCA Caver Training Workshop Leaders/Instructors

The process in DCA is to contact people known to DCA that have in the past run workshops as volunteers. For new people that show an interest in getting involved, the pay structure is sent to them, and a selection is made based on who is willing to work for the minimum fee. If more than 1 person apply and are suitable then DCA will work a rota so that everyone gets a chance to run something. This is a very clear and transparent way to ensure that there is no conflict of interest. The instructors on the technical workshops are all CIC holders involved with the coaching guidelines to enable up to date information to be passed on and that techniques are agreed best/good practice.

List of those that have run workshops so far: -

Kevin West - SRT intro

Nigel Atkins - SRT intermediate and rigging/rescue

Rob Eavis & Mark Burkley - Cave Photography

John Helm - Cave Geology

Dave Baines - Weather & Flooding

Peter Knight has already been approached to run the Tyrolean workshop but due to covid this has been postponed.

Jo White from the BCRA has been approached to run the next DCA geology workshop.

You will note that each person has their own workshop and although some can do more, they have agreed to limit it to their chosen topic to allow more people to become involved when an interest is shown.

Report from BCA Training

There was a meeting on Thursday February 3rd with the newly formed BCA Training, & Equipment Working Party which I attended on behalf of DCA chaired by the new BCA Training Officer Steve Gray. There have been many changes made in BCA with regard to training, some I agreed with and

some not, however we now have to work with what we have in place. Funding for training from this working party is unknown and the Training Officer will let me know what is now in place as soon as he can.

This payment system worked fine for the DCA events and only cost BCA a small amount of money per event, however things have changed so I would like DCA to discuss how we move forward with possible DCA/BCA funding in the future.

Other regional training officers have training events set up which is really positive and funding for these is applied for directly to BCA from these regions. There was no one at this meeting representing equipment so there is nothing to report from that side.

Caving Coaching Guidelines

When I took over as the National BCA training officer in 2018, I reworked the DCA club training scheme with those involved during lock down to try fit in with techniques and terms used all over the UK. Whilst many clubs offer training, how are standards set, reached, and maintained? There are also many cavers who do not belong to a club and seek out other opportunities for training. It made sense at the time for the BCA training officer to bring together many of its outstanding, dedicated, and enthusiastic cavers within the BCA training committee to share the skills and experience with other cavers at nationally. I worked very hard to help promote and support training needs to recreational cavers not just to Derbyshire but elsewhere in the UK.

The DCA club training scheme has been run by the Derbyshire Caving Association (DCA) for over 20 years. It was designed, written, and delivered by 2 current LC/MLA level 2 assessors for SRT for leader and a current and long-standing CIC trainer and assessor. There is no higher qualification in the UK than this and ensures that the guidelines are current with training in all the BCA awards schemes. The DCA club training scheme changed to Club Coaching Guidelines in 2018 following feedback from BCA that the scheme looked like an accreditation award for recreational cavers. These guidelines changed to Caving Coaching Guidelines in 2021 by the BCA Training Officer, now forms a full set of training modules ready to roll out to all UK caving clubs in other regions so that BCA has a clear set of working guidelines to help continuity across the UK where regional training officers can help inform and update clubs in their area. However, there was an objection in BCA to the use of the word 'best' practice which seemed to put a halt to the work being done. In the Caving Coaching Guidelines, the trainers use the terms 'best and good' practice, and I would be happy to receive any feedback from DCA members about this. The current BCA Training Officer has been involved in workshops in Northern England and is in possession of these Caving Coaching Guidelines that were reworked by the previous BCA Training Officer in early 2021.

The Training Modules

The training modules are divided into four modules and delivered by club coaches. Basic Caving, Vertical (non-SRT), Vertical (SRT), SRT Pitch Rigging & Self Rescue. Each module is completed before progressing to the next module. The guidelines offer caving clubs the means to achieve a high standard of competence entirely relevant to the club caver and which can be kept up to date by active club coaches. It can additionally be used by the caving clubs as a means of motivating and monitoring individual club cavers.

I have been constantly monitoring the guidelines with input from club coaches/training officers and practical workshops run for DCA clubs and university caving clubs. We will now be running out workshops for the guidelines and welcome all those involved with looking at or currently delivering training for their club members.

Cave Coaching Workshop - Saturday March 26th

The essential workshop for anyone teaching caving in their club. This introduction to coaching will look at all 3 modules of the caving coaching guidelines and is run by one of the original writers and designers of the coaching scheme. £30

The Future of the Caving Coaching Guidelines

As the BCA Training Officer from 2018 to 2021, I spoke at Hidden Earth twice, attended training workshops and ran specialist 'Evenings with the BCA Training Officer' around the UK to introduce guidelines for the benefit of all caving clubs. I did this for expenses only and I really enjoyed it, especially when regional club trainers adopted the modules for their own progressive training. These club trainers are still in contact with me and helping to feedback ideas for the future.

The current BCA training officer is very supportive, has been involved with the guidelines in Northern England and has assisted in the running of some workshops including underground navigation. It will be good to see BCA more active with this in the future. Until then, due to interest outside the DCA, the DCA Training Officer will look to expand the Caving Coaching Guidelines Panel (*the DCA Training Officer and the 5 current trainers*) to include: - The BCA Training Officer, The 'Assistant' DCA Training Officer and the 4 other regional training officers in BCA training committee.

'Assistant' DCA Training Officer

The guidelines adopted by DCA clubs and many out of region clubs are growing so there is a lot being done by DCA in training and the future looks very busy. In view of this I ask DCA to support the training officer to appoint an 'assistant' DCA Training Officer to help with the coaching workload. This person should be an existing or previous club training officer who is involved with the teaching of the caving guidelines and be at least a level 1 Coach. Over the next 12 months I will help this person to attain level 3 Coach (unless of course they are already at this level). This is an excellent opportunity for someone to work alongside 5 current CIC holders who are BCA LC/MLA trainers and assessors and a CIC trainer/assessor who are also volunteers in the Caving Coaching Guidelines. The 'assistant' DCA Training Officer would also be authorised by the DCA Training Officer to attend BCA Training and Equipment working party. I have spoken to the BCA Training Officer about this and if someone is appointed, I am to write to him formally requesting this for his support. I am in contact with those who are involved with DCA training events and already speaking to people who would be an asset to DCA.

ACI workshop 'Good' Practice Guidelines for CIC holders

The DCA Training Officer will be running an SRT workshop in April looking at the teaching of the training guideline modules and current SRT standards in the CIC scheme.

Good caving

Nigel Atkin

09/02/2021

Newsletter Editor

We've had yet another tough year for The Derbyshire Caver, with only two issues produced instead of four so far – 156 is still only in development, with little new material. This again is down to a general lack of content being submitted by local cavers, and being somewhat reliant on us writing it ourselves, difficult with so many competing demands on time and other publications. That said, the last issue was excellent, and very well-received, not least down to our 'exclusive' reports on the Eldon Hole bone-recovery project. For once Descent had to come second and were happy with the material we submitted for their next issue – no hard feelings, but it did feel good to be able to cover one of our own projects ourselves, and to be able to demonstrate the skills and organisation of all those involved.

Also, as the last UCF meeting didn't happen, the current direction of conservation projects is uncertain, which makes it equally difficult to write about them. Hopefully as the weather improves, we can start to work on our list of important projects again, and this will give us something to write about and promote!

Phil Wolstenholme
11/02/2021

Cave Registry Secretary

The Cave Registry is up-to-date and working fine, with some new sites recently added. New features and refinements are constantly being added, and I'd like to thank Angus for all the hard work he's put into the back end over the last year, much of which will never be noticed or understood directly by most users, but which has ultimately resulted in a very powerful tool for the management and presentation of cave information. The 3D model feature-set is very powerful, far beyond what Survex can offer as a model browser, and greatly improves the user experience – even high-resolution print output is now available with your own choice of line and background colours and the ability to add a legend and scale. The new hydrology section will add another important dimension to the understanding and mapping of the local systems and filling in some of the gaps we're currently unable to enter.

Several new submissions and site updates, especially entrance photos, have been received by cavers over the year, which is greatly appreciated, mainly as these are from the less well-known areas.

Several sites have been written-up but are not on public display, awaiting changes in access agreements, discussions for some cases are ongoing.

Further related micro-guides for various sites will be updated as time allows, but I'm only able to update sites I personally know about – if anyone can think of micro-guides that need updating, or of ones that don't exist and they would consider producing one, please let me know. We have had no progress from anyone to produce the missing 'Giants Hole Part 3' microguide as yet.

Phil Wolstenholme
11/02/2021

DCA Report on BCA Council Meetings

Since the last DCA Meeting on 27th September 2021 I have attended the BCA AGM on 10th October 2021 and the following 2 Council meetings on 7th December 2021 and 1st February 2022 (all held online via Zoom).

As is now well known, a ballot was held for the position of BCA Chair, the 2 candidates being the incumbent, Russell Myers, and Rostam Namaghi. Russell was duly elected, and Rostam has resigned from his position as Publications and Information Officer.

Consequent upon the changes at the AGM following the online ballot on a number of proposals, particularly that which converted the Committees into Working Groups headed by Convenors (who do not have a vote on Council) I give below an updated list of BCA Council members and appointed officers:

EXECUTIVE	Chair	Russell Myers
	Secretary	Allan Richardson
	Treasurer	Howard Jones
GROUP/CLUB REPS	Position 1	Vacant
	Position 2	Vacant
	Position 3	Lydia Leather
	Position 4	Idris Williams
INDIVIDUAL MEMBER REPS	Position 1	Vacant
	Position 2	Nigel Atkins
	Position 3	Jenny Potts
	Position 4	Andrew McLeod
REGIONAL COUNCIL REPS	CCC	John Sheehy
	CNCC	Andrew Hinde
	CSCC	Linda Wilson
	DCA	Mike Higgins
	DCUC	David Jean
CONSTITUENT BODY REPS	William Pengelly CST	Richard Vooght
	Assoc of Caving Instructors	Stephan Natynczuk
	National Caving Scout ASU	Tony Radmall
	BCRA	John Gunn
	NAMHO	Steve Holding
	CHECC	Jennifer Ryder
	CDG	Claire Cohen
	BCRC	Emma Porter
NON-VOTING POSITIONS		
Working Group Convenors	Training & Equipment	Steve Gray
	Conservation & Access	Vacant
	Information Technology	Ari Cooper-Davis
	Youth & Development	Josh White
	CRoW	David Rose
	QMC	George Plant

	Vision Radon	Andrew McLeod Vacant
ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS	Insurance Manager	Howard Jones
	Membership Administrator	Wendy Williams
	Safeguarding Officer	Chris Boardman
	Training Administrator	Mary Wilde
	Library Representative	Jenny Potts
	Newsletter Editor	David Rose
	UIS Representative	Andy Eavis
	FSE Representative	Ged Campion
	Rope Testing	Vacant
	Artificial Cave	Katie Eavis
	QMC Representative 1	Russell Myers
	QMC Representative 2	Chris Boardman

The current financial position as reported to the last BCA meeting by the Treasurer is that current bank balances are £206,000. Non-routine expenditure in the last quarter of 2021 amounted to £51,000.

The BCA Public Liability insurance has been renewed for the current year, but there are concerns for the future given that a number of companies have now left the outdoor cover market. Although the £5m to £10m layer of cover now includes the USA and Canada (previously excluded) explosives for this level of cover are now excluded. The BCA travel policy has been renewed for 2022 on similar terms.

The UIS International Congress will take place at the University Campus of Savoie Technolac at Savoie Mont-Blanc from 24th to 31st July 2022.

The work of the British Caving Library has been affected by Covid restrictions through 2021, visitor numbers being in the low 20s against the previous average of 80 per year. Katie Eavis has now moved from Library duties to dealing with BCA membership in the continuing absence of Wendy Williams due to ill health. Karen Slatcher is now Library Assistant.

Nigel Atkins provided what appears to be the very first report to BCA Council by an Individual Members Representative and made the point that there are no terms of reference or job description for these 4 positions. I feel that this needs to be rectified but whether that will happen remains to be seen.

The timeline for the BCA AGM on 12th June 2022 is as follows:

- Notification no later than 6th February 2022
- Deadline for receipt of nominations and proposals 12 midnight on 20th March 2022
- Agenda posted no later than 1st May 2022
- Deadline for reports 29th May 2022
- Deadline for posting reports 5th June 2022
- Voting until 12 midnight on 26th June 2022

Work continues with regard to the CRoW legal proceedings. Following the BCA's partial victory in the Judicial Review, the Court's decision on costs is awaited and this could mean a refund to BCA of around £20k against the total cost of £80k. BCA's representations to the Welsh Government have

been submitted in accordance with the Court's deadline and David Rose and his colleagues on the CRoW Working Group have produced an excellent document that may be read via the link on the BCA website - CRoW Update: Representations to Welsh Government (british-caving.org.uk).

Mike Higgins
07/02/2022