



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Open Council Meeting, 10:27am. 1 November 2014, Monyash Village Hall

MINUTES

Present:	Officers	Terry Jackson [TJ]	Chairman (Ind.)
		Jenny Potts [JP]	Secretary (Ind.)
		Wayne Sheldon [WS]	Treasurer (Ind.)
		Mel Milner [MM]	Conservation Officer (Ind.)
		Ewan Cameron [EC]	Access Officer (O.C.C.)
		Pete Mellors [PM]	Legal & Insurance officer (Ind.)
		Pete Knight [PK]	Projects Officer (& Darkside C.C.)
		Bob Dearman [BD]	Equipment Officer (Ind.)
		Mike Higgins [MH]	Newsletter Editor (Ind.)
	Clubs	Eldon P. C.	(Bob Dearman)
		Masson Caving Group	J. Borrington [JB]
		Orpheus C. C.	Boyd Potts [BP]
	Individuals	Alan Brentnall [AB]	

1. **Chairman's Welcome:** Establish Quorum.
Quorate with 9 officers.
2. **Apologies for absence:**
Apologies received from PDMHS (Adam Russell), Karen Slatcher, Training Officer (Nigel Atkins), Elaine Hill, BVT (Graham Marshment),
3. **To Approve Minutes of the previous Council Meeting:** (28 June 2014, previously circulated).
That the Minutes of the previous Council Meeting be approved. Prop. B.Potts, Sec. W.Sheldon. **Agreed.**
4. **Matters Arising therefrom:** (Note that some of these items may be covered in Officers' Reports.)
 - 4.1 **Arrange for DCA plaques to be fitted to shaft lids:** Ongoing. (See PK report, Item 6.4) **ACTION: PK**
 - 4.2 **Review DCA Fixed Aids Policy:** Ongoing. **ACTION: JP, BD**
 - 4.3 **Masson Quarry sale - continue to seek information on purchaser - still unsold:** AR reported by email.
Masson sale - as far as I'm aware there has been no change; the land is still in the same ownership and there has been no indication of a new attempt to sell. AR suggests this action is closed. Agreed.
 - 4.4 **Maggie Mine / River Lathkill proposal - keep watch on progress:**
MM reported £140 million now seems likely cost. At present seems quiet but first needs environmental impact assessment before any action can be taken. NE are supporting Haddon Estates in the project. MM comments that restoration of so-called natural flow would close off access to many caves and she would be against this. EA want to see many of the weirs removed and MM considers this would have a good effect for cavers but the fishermen want the weirs to remain.
DCA supports EA stance to remove weirs. Prop. M.Milner, Sec. M.Higgins. **Agreed nem con.**
 - 4.5 **Level behind Bateman's Shaft - needs new access grill on shaft:**
In progress. Ian Webb is fabricating grill by which will block the adit before you reach the shaft. Some concern at delay in finishing job. PK will chase IW for progress report. (Noted by BD that there is a firm in Peak District which will fabricate gates quickly to order.) (See PK report, Item 6.4) **ACTION: IW, PK**
 - 4.6 **Appoint new Trainer for bolt installers:**
All people suitable to act as Trainers work in O.P. industry so are extremely busy. BD still willing to act as Trainer but will continue to try to identify another suitable person. **ACTION: BD**
 - 4.7 **Devonshire, old show cave entrance needs to be secured properly:** AR reported by email.
Devonshire Gate - I've had another look at it this summer and I now think fitting a lower concrete lintel would involve more work than I originally thought. Given that it's still for sale, I think unless the gate develops problems again further work should wait until a new owner is in place and we know whether the present access agreement can continue. Agreed to defer pending result of sale. (See PK report, Item 6.4) **ACTION: AR, JP**
 - 4.8 **BCA Funding, WS to contact MM about National Trust possibly funding work in Manifold:**
Done. Majority of entrances which need work are not on NT land. Noted need to replace some bolts because of corrosion as they are under water for part of the year - will involve some NT entrances. One other site, a hand picked level, needs to be surveyed and is on NT land. Noted some pitches in Manifold need BP bolts fitted - no rush as these will have to wait till next spring/summer when water lower. MM to supply BD with list of requirements. **ACTION: MM, BD**
 - 4.9 **Stoney Middleton C.C.P., JP to follow up progress with MC:**
Now printed and on sale. Thanks to all involved for their work.
 - 4.10 **Waterfall Hole, liaise with appropriate authority to arrange for parking for cavers:**
(See PK report, Item 6.4 & EC report, Item 6.5)
 - 4.11 **Identify unwanted old bolt placements & draw up policy for "Exploration bolts":**
Time consuming job so being done by installers as they place new bolts. No need for specific policy on "exploration bolts".

- 4.12 **Treasurer: Organise a new bank account for DCA to run in parallel with the existing RBS one.** WS SGM to Elect New DCA Chairman arranged for 1 Nov. prior to Council to enable this. (See WS report, item 6.2.)
- 4.13 **Odin Mine, AR to check progress with N.T.:** AR reported by email. *I've raised this with Paul Mortimer of the NT, but not heard anything since.* Ongoing. **ACTION: AR**
- 4.14 **Castleton Moor Shaft - new lid needed - EH permission not needed:** This is Credit Crunch Shaft. Ongoing and lid is ready to go. Another 5 shafts need to be dealt with at some time. (See PK report, Item 6.4) **ACTION: PK**
- 4.15 **Consent for work on EH sites. AR & PK to liaise.** AR reported by email. *No action, which is my fault for not liaising with Pete K.* Ongoing - Fawcett Rake Shafts." (See PK report, Item 6.4) **ACTION: PK, AR**
- 4.16 **Access to Christmas Swallet & Snelslow Swallet, EC and PM to liaise:** (See EC report, Item 6.5)
- 4.17 **L & I Officer, Print DCA Booklet on Liability:** Done. (See PM Report, Item 6.6.)
- 4.18 **Snake Mine Bolts, DCA to consider adopting them:** DCA is unable to test them satisfactorily because of potential damage to unknown type of bolts by the Hydrajaws tester. **Noted that, as a policy, DCA does not adopt non-PB bolts placed by cavers who are not DCA-trained installers.**
- 5. Election of New Members:**
No applications this time.
- 6. Officers' Reports:**
- 6.1 Secretary** (*Written report tabled - Item 6.1.*)
- 6.1.a JP noted that she would add reference to the postal circulation on 16 October of 'The Derbyshire Caver' no. 135, Information booklet re. CRoW, DCA Legal Liability booklet for clubs.
- 6.1.b **That the Secretary's Report be accepted.** Prop. B.Dearman, Sec. P.Knight. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.2 Treasurer** (*Written report tabled - Item 6.2.*)
- 6.2.a **Funding due from BCA:** will be paid in the next week or two. Noted that Training committee funding for Cliffhanger is due - BP has sent a report on Cliffhanger to BCA Training Committee.
- 6.2.b **That the Treasurer's report be accepted.** Prop. A.Brentnall, Sec. P.Mellors. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.2.c **New DCA bank account.** Wayne explained advantages of the Unity Bank which seemed more suitable for DCA than the original suggestion of Lloyds. This would allow us a cheque book requiring 2 signatures, payments in could be made via a Post Office, we would be able to arrange for on-line 2nd. authorisation of a Direct Bank Transfer. BP said that his Parish Council was arranging to open an account with Unity Bank as the system had been set up to apply to organisations.
That the Treasurer be authorised to open an account with the Unity Trust Bank. W.Sheldon, B.Potts.
Agreed unanimously.
- 6.3 Conservation Officer** (*Written report tabled - Item 6.3.*)
- 6.3.a **Fox Hole Cave & Oxclose Mine:** MM was awaiting a reply from Paul Mortimer.
- 6.3.b **Ladyside Pot:** New grills have now been placed on Ladyside Pot so access for cavers is now easier using a spanner and safer for public in the valley as they cannot accidentally get in. MM showed photos of the finished job.
- 6.3.c **Sparrowlee Sink in Hamps Valley:** Now fitted with grill made from re-cycled farm gates. MM showed photos of the finished job.
- 6.3.d **Darfur Ridge Cave:** Re-taped recently. MM showed photos of the finished job.
- 6.3.e **Landowner agreements:** MM had pointed out that CNCC are required to show all member clubs their agreements with landowners. Noted that this is not necessary for DCA as we have an L&I officer who holds copies.
- 6.3.f **That the Conservation Officer's report be accepted.** Prop. M.Higgings, Sec. B.DDearman. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.4 Projects Officer** (*Written report tabled - Item 6.4.*)
- 6.4.a **Progress on Projects:** PK noted that MM has produced a website document which can be accessed to show progress.
- 6.4.b **Waterfall Hole:** PM queried the current status as NT had agreed to provide room for parking if DCA provided manpower but things have now gone quiet. EC said he can bring hard-core for free and dispose of rubbish from the site if required but first needs to find out from NT who actually owns lane where the parking place is. Liaison needed between **EC, PM, PK.**
- 6.4.c **That the Projects Officer's report be accepted.** Prop. E.Cameron, Sec. P.Mellors. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.5 Access Officer** (*Written report tabled -Item 6.5.*)
- 6.5.a **Ashford M. M. Permits.** Agreed the setting up of an automated email system to remind Outdoor Organisation users about updating their insurance.
- 6.5.b **Christmas Swallet.** Noted that major works appear to be going on and now hardcore is being brought in and dumped, with some large machinery on site. Query whether EN should be aware as this is an SSSI in a National Park. It may be possible work is being done by the tenant of grazing. TJ has not seen any application for work on the site. Suggested that we may need to query with NE whether they are aware of work. TJ said he could look and report to PM, MM, EC. **ACTION: TJ**

- 6.5.c **Holme Bank Chert Mine.** PM queried whether DCA members are being asked to sign the owner's new liability form. EC said it appears to be aimed at individual people who are not members of BCA with an insurance card or at an organisation with an insurance. It does not appear to be causing problems.
- 6.5.d **Eyam Dale House Cave:** John Beck has contacted JP with the following information:
I met up with the new owner of Eyam Dale House today. He seems a nice guy, and is happy for the present access arrangement to continue. I hold the key at Glebe Cottage. The only change is that he would like an email when a group is coming so that he knows that the people milling about in the lower car park are cavers and not intruders. Fair enough. Groups should contact me at least a day in advance (which they do anyway to make sure I am here) and I will let him know.
- 6.5.e **That the Access Officer's report be accepted.** Prop. P.Knight, Sec. B.Potts. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.6 Legal & Insurance Officer** (Written report tabled - Item 6.6.)
- 6.6.a **That the Legal & Insurance Officer's report be accepted.** Prop. M.Higgins, Sec. B.Dearman. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.7.1 Equipment Officer** (Written report tabled - Item 6.7.1)
- 6.7.1.a **JH Leviathan Pitch.** The alternative route now bolted seems to be popular so agreed DCA approves re-bolting the alternative route with BP bolts. PK notes there are some old non-BP bolts in the entrance pitch and suggests these could be re-bolted with BP bolts.
- 6.7.1.b **Faulty Bolt reports.** Note that we encourage complainants to carefully check the exact position of the faulty bolt so that faults can be checked without wasting time and effort. Accurate place descriptions must be reported to Equipment Officer.
- 6.7.1.c **Pro-formers for pull-thro's in Nettle.** These were demonstrated by BD.
- 6.7.1.d **Pelicase.** A Pelicase to safeguard drill on bolting operations had been supplied by BCA.
- 6.7.1.e **That the Equipment Officer's report be accepted.** Prop. B.Potts, Sec. P.Knight. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.7.2 Cave Atmosphere Monitoring Report:** (Written report tabled - Item 6.7.2)
That Alan Brentnall's Cave Atmosphere Monitoring Report be accepted. Prop. B.Potts, Sec. P.Knight.
Agreed unanimously.
- 6.8 Training Officer's Report:** (Written report tabled - Item 6.8.)
- 6.8.a **Coming Events.** Noted all the training events coming up for 2014/15. JP will circulate a.s.a.p.
- 6.8.b **Cliffhanger.** BP had reported on this in DCA N/L 135. We don't yet have dates for next year but BP will ask.
- 6.8.c **DCA "Artificial Cave":** This has been stored at NT barn in Edale but NT will not be using it in future so it may be necessary to find alternative storage. Possible it will fit in the DCA container - BP and PK will check but seems a good site for it. It will fit in long-wheel-base van for transport to events so it will be worth hiring one each time for transport.
- 6.8.d **That the Training Officer's report be accepted.** Prop. M.Milner, Sec. P.Knight. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.9 Newsletter Editor** (Written report tabled - Item 6.9.)
- 6.9.a **Issues 134 & 135.** JP offered MH her congratulations on two issues so far.
- 6.9.b **Future issues.** Suggested that there should be obituaries for Chuck Hooley and Paul Deakin in next issue - various people offered to ask re. appropriate authors for these items.
- 6.9.c **Index.** Great idea and to be encouraged.
- 6.9.d **That the Newsletter Editor's report be accepted.** Prop. P.Mellors, Sec. M.Milner. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.10 Asst. Sec. / Planning Liaison**
JP said she had not heard from Chris Broom. She would contact him to see if he was still willing to serve as Assistant Secretary/ Planning Liaison.
- 7. BCA Reports and matters arising from BCA meetings:**
- 7.1 Reports from BCA C&A Meeting 16 August.** (Referred to in earlier reports.)
See reports from Conservation and Legal & Insurance Officers, Items 6.3 and 6.6.
- 7.2 Reports from BCA Council Meeting 11 October.** (Written report tabled - Item 7.2.)
- 7.2.a **CRoW issues.** This had been referred to in JP's BCA Council report and also in PM's Legal & Insurance report and had been discussed at the June 2014 DCA Council meeting. There was a further brief discussion and JP explained the process of the ballot to be conducted by BCA. JP asked for direction in the event that she receives a ballot paper for DCA itself. On behalf of DCA she could be directed to vote for or against the motion or could be directed to abstain.
That DCA as a body should not vote. Prop. P.Mellors. There was no seconder for this proposal.
That the Secretary be instructed to vote for the BCA proposal. Prop. B.Potts, Sec. E.Cameron.
Agreed nem con. (1 abstention, the rest in favour.)

7.2.b **Voting arrangements:** MM queried the arrangements for voting as she seems to have 2 cards. Clarified this was because she had recently joined BCRA and would actually only get one voting paper.

That the BCA Council Representative's Report be accepted. Prop. W.Sheldon, Sec. A.Brentnall.
Agreed unanimously.

8. Confirm Date and Venue of next meeting:

8.1 **2015 AGM: 28 February 2015**, 10am at Monyash Village Hall. Already agreed.

9. Any Other Business.

9.1 **UCF meeting.** MM reminded members that the next Underground Conservation Forum meeting would be at the Bluebell Inn, Fenny Bentley on 8th. Dec. 2014

There being no other business the meeting closed 2.00 pm.

***J.Potts,
Recorder***

**APPENDED TO THESE MINUTES AND FORMING PART OF THEM ARE THE
FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:**

- a. Item 6.1 Secretary's Report;
- b. Item 6.2 Treasurer's Report;
- c. Item 6.3 Conservation Officer's Report;
- d. Item 6.4 Projects Officer's Report;
- e. Item 6.5 Access Officer's Report
- f. Item 6.6 Legal & Insurance Officer's Report;
- g. Item 6.7.1 Equipment Officer's Report;
- h. Item 6.7.2 Cave Atmosphere Monitoring Report;
- i. Item 6.8 Training Officer's Report;
- j. Item 6.9 Newsletter Editor's Report;
- k. Item 7.2 Report from BCA Council Meeting of 10th. October 2014.

Derbyshire Caving Association - Reports for 1 November 2014

Item 6.1 - Secretary's Report

Communications

During the months since the Council Meeting on 28th June I have sent out the following to all members, by email where possible.

- July 8/9 - Minutes of the 28 June Council Meeting, Agenda for SGM on 1 November, Circular on DCA Training Events.
- September 26 - Notification of printing of "The Derbyshire Caver" no. 135 and the Stoney Middleton C. C. Audit to be available at Hidden Earth,
- October 15/16 - Agenda for 1 November Council Meeting, DCA Information Circular 2014/4; by post 'The Derbyshire Caver' no. 135, Information booklet re. CRoW, DCA Legal Liability booklet for clubs.

All information circulated has also been posted on the DCA website - thanks to Mel Milner.

Hidden Earth

I set up a DCA stand and sales point at Hidden Earth in Leek this year. Thanks to those who helped man it and sell items. Some DCA members were able to pick up their copy of "The Derbyshire Caver" no. 135 from the stand, we also sold copies of Caves of the Peak District, the DCA Handbook and Cave Conservation Audits, including the new "Stoney Middleton Dale SSSI Cave Audit and Conservation Management Plan"

Sales of Caves of the Peak District

Sales began to slow down at the beginning of the year but have now started to pick up again. The Treasurer is kept informed of progress.

Thanks

Thanks, as always, to all officers and members who keep the information coming in so that I can pass it on to you all.

*Jenny Potts, Hon. Sec.
31 Oct. 2014*

Item 6.2 - DCA Treasurer's Report

Current funds up to the 24th October 2014 are:

Deposit a/c: £17,270.69
Current a/c: £464.34
Total: £17,735.03

There is a list of payments in and out of the accounts since 28th June 2014:

Payments in:		Payments out:	
Membership Fees:	£50.00	Conservation and Access Work:	£375.43
COPD Income:	£429.00	General Admin:	£25.00
Bank Interest:	£36.38	Newsletter / Publications Expenses:	£463.85
Training		Natural England Expenses	£723.80
Other Publication Sales:	£101.80	Equipment	
Natural England Funding	£731.84	Training (Cliffhanger)	£488.65
		Conservation Officer Float	£102.68
Totals:	£1349.02		£2179.41

Caves of the Peak District:

Sales of COPD are still trickling through.

BCA Core Funding and Cliffhanger 2014:

The accounts for 2013 were submitted to BCA back in March. We still haven't received this funding. This has been chased again and up to now, nothing has been received. Cliffhanger accounts were submitted last month and to date no funding has been received. We are owed approx. £1500 from BCA.

Bank Accounts:

DCA are to change banks and I was tasked with finding an alternative bank. Following the June council meeting, a DCA member brought the Unity Trust bank to our attention so this has been researched and it's basically the following:

- Internet based (no branches)
- Cheque book
- Paying in books can be set up for individual post offices so various offices can have them.
- Statements are emailed to the treasurer or any other nominated officers, a number of officers can have this facility.
- Two people need to sign off on online payments, it's relatively simple.
- Standing orders and direct debits can be set up.
- Telephone banking can also be used.
- Alto card (pre-paid card) can be set up, it's an alternative to having floats so Mel Milner could have this as an alternative to cash in hand

There is a deposit account, similar to RBS.

I propose that we open an account at this bank. I have the paperwork so we can fill it in and apply for an account.

Natural England Project Work:

I have made three claims from the 2014/15 grant, this totalling £731.84. We have £2268.16 left to claim. A substantial amount will be spent on the Loncliffe Mine project which is in advanced stages of planning and once final consent for the landowner is in place, this will be started. I will be liaising with Mel Milner (Conservation Officer) on the final projects that we claim for.

Wayne Sheldon
DCA Hon. Treasurer, 27/10/14

Item 6.3 - Conservation Officer's Report

The last few months have again been very busy!

Firstly, (not strictly a conservation issue), I have been wondering why the access agreements in the DCA access handbook don't include the signatures. They appear to be 'summaries' of the agreements. This has come about because of communication with the CNCC conservation officer who is trying to get access to their **full** agreements as per the CNCC constitution. They are apparently supposed to be supplied to all full member clubs of CNCC.

Continued the NT cave monitoring program for the Manifold & Hamps valleys. Coope and Oldpark Hills still to do. Unable to do at the moment due to car being off the road, pending an MOT.

I have continued entrance works in the Manifold & Hamps valleys. 11 out of 18 sites have now been completed, of the remaining ones (**Wetton Road Swallet** (needs grille bolting down), **Plughole** (ditto, plus finish concreting), **Project Pot** (shift restraining bar), **Bent Chisel Pot** (bolt down manhole cover), **Ladyside 2** (might be Concrete Pot, bolt grille down), **Weag's Bridge Resurgence** (bit of concreting, low priority), **Sparrowlee Sink** (finish concreting), 4 will take less than an hours work to finish each one. (None of these sites are on NT land.)

Have liaised with Dan of NE and Wayne and Jenny of DCA as necessary.

I have also re-taped **Darfar Ridge Cave** with stronger and more aesthetically pleasing orange rope and produced photos of monitored features. All good in there at the moment.

Fox Hole Cave and **Oxclose Mine** need monitoring, (requested specifically by NE), so I need to organise those to be done. Paul M supplied me with their form for Fox Hole Cave and a survey. I combined them into a DCA format form and sent a blank form back to Paul M. Awaiting completed form from Paul M for the former cave.

Have produced monitoring forms for **Limepits Mine** (monitored), **T-Pot**, **St. Bertram's Cave** (monitored) and **Robin's Shaft Mine** (Monitored). Need to finish them off with photos of interesting features, then send them to Dan at NE.

There is also a small apparently hand-picked old mine on Wetton Hill which at some point I will survey and photograph with a view to getting access preserved if appropriate. I will ask the NT to part-fund the entrance works if it goes ahead.

I have also updated the DCA web site as necessary in my role as DCA webmeister! (New events, information circulars, agendas, minutes and details of the Stoney Middleton Dale Audit). The new liability booklet was also made available for download via the web site.

Photos of some of the entrance works and re-taping to be shown at the meeting on 1st. November 2014.

Regards Melissa Milner,
DCA Conservation Officer, October 2014.

Item 6.4 - Projects Officer's Report

Re. Agenda items:

- 4.1 **Plaques.** I'm still in possession of the Nettle Pot plaque and awaiting a time to fit it with BD. Work over the summer has not allowed for this but it should be easy to sort out dates in Nov/Dec.
- 4.5 **Batemans.** At the point of nearly being ready to install the gate and new approach was agreed upon and the project has now been moving slowly ahead thanks to the volunteer coordinator Ian Webb. The gate is still being manufactured and as yet we do not have a completion date.
- 4.7 **Devonshire top gate.** No work has been done on this. I suspect AR has this in hand.
- 4.10 **Waterfall Hole.** PM coordinating. Uncertain as to progress.
- 4.14 **Castleton Moor Shaft.** Gordon Wordsworth coordinating job. Lid ready to fit as soon as a good weather day is available. May have been completed by now.
- 4.15 **EH consents.** No progress but all works are moving along.

Pete Knight,
Projects Officer

Item 6.5 - Access Officer's Report

Waterfall Swallet

All seems to be working well with access however we are still expecting NT to set a date for a work party to sort car parking. Needs to be sorted as parking is the main issue with the access in the area.

Permits for Ashford Marble Mine

We have been receiving the usual insurance and paperwork and with DCA permission I would like to use a paper trail to auto update people's insurance for on-going permits. Garry Noble at Peter Webster Centre DCC has asked to get a permit for ABMM.

Christmas Swallet

I have emailed to arrange a meeting with NE and the land owner. However it seems they are struggling also. Mel might like to look at the mass of land works that have been ongoing for a number of weeks in the area and if it's going to affect the caves.

Ball Eye Mine

All email enquiries for information have drawn a blank still ongoing.

Devonshire Mine

Still for sale have met with the land owner and she is still very pro caving and hopes that the new person in the house once sold will keep the mine open to all.

Home Bank Chert Mine

After internet post it is confirmed all single trips or groups of friends must complete paperwork supplied by Oldfield Design and show BCA membership. All clubs and outdoors firms can supply a letter and insurance. This has come about due to the poor quality of letters being provided.

Moss Rake Works & Pin Dale Quarry

For sale and monitoring is being done by a number of people and they are keeping us updated

*Ewan Cameron,
DCA Access Officer*

Item 6.6 - Report by Legal & Insurance Officer

Liability booklet

200 copies of this have been printed, as agreed. Batches of 15 have been left for people to pick up at Hitch 'n' Hike, Caving Supplies, Matlock Mining Museum, Scarthin Bookshop and 25 at the Smithy Cafe in Monyash. Chris Howes reviewed the booklet favourably in the latest Descent, and it is now available to download from the DCA website or obtainable by post from Jenny Potts.

Holme Bank Chert Mine

Joe Oldfield is asking visitors to sign an Indemnity chit and produce proof of insurance cover. I'm not certain if he expects PICA and DCA members to sign or not. The nature and content of his "Assumption of Risk & Liability Release Agreement" suggest it's aimed more at those visitors least likely to be familiar with the Mine and its hazards. The document is clumsily worded and legally inept, especially in its attempt to shift owner liability on to the visitor. However, it contains a get-out clause accepting that some of its terms may not apply. It's been drawn up, I'd say, by a solicitor uncertain of his knowledge in this area of law. Personally, I'd sign it if asked, but add the words "Without prejudice to my legal rights".

Caving & CRoW 2000

I attended the BCA C&A Committee meeting in August as an observer for DCA. Divisions within the caving community over this legislation were very much in evidence, but I was impressed by the manner in which Andrew Hinde steered the meeting to a decision to refer the matter on to BCA Council for discussion once the outcome of a preliminary talk with NE/DEFRA was known.

Garden Path

This is kept locked and access restricted to visits for "scientific research purposes" under the terms of our licence from Chatsworth. The entrance lies inside the boundary of access land that forms part of the Lathkill Dale NNR. Any reinterpretation of CRoW 2000 in favour of recreational caving would be bound to trigger a review of the following: (1) what restrictions and covenants, if any, may apply to the access status of that particular piece of land, (2) the legality of the present licence, (3) the fact the entrance was mined, and (4) the conservation issue.

Ashford Black Marble Mine

This is located similarly on Access land and would require a similar reappraisal to determine the legality of current access procedures. I should point out that Chatsworth holds considerable mineral rights and would be likely to resist measures to reinterpret the law in favour of a public right of access under its land.

*Peter Mellors
Legal & Insurance Officer*

Item 6.7.1 - Equipment Officer's Report

Around the middle of September it was reported by Chris Porcheret that there was a loose DCA P anchor at the top of the alternative route down Leviathon in JH mine. It turned out that the loose anchor was not installed by DCA but was one of a series of stainless steel resin set and expansion anchors installed by persons unknown. This anchor (possibly Raumer) could be moved with the fingers and only took a small amount of force to remove with a short bar. When inspected the anchor had a minimal amount of resin on the shaft. The substrate around the existing 12mm hole was inspected and deemed structurally sound, the hole was drilled out to 16mm and a new BP anchor installed. Subsequently the anchor was successfully Hydrajaws tested to EN959. This episode highlights the dangers of anchors being installed by untrained persons and the need to rigorously check all anchors to the BCA approved guidelines whilst rigging. It should also be noted that both BP and Eco anchors have been on sale commercially and that just because an anchor of these designs has been used does not necessarily mean that it was installed by DCA. DCA is not responsible for any anchors except those designated on the approved topos. I would like to encourage a discussion on whether this alternative route down JH should be re-bolted by DCA as it seems to be quite popular.

A report came in from the instructors at Stanley Head that the high anchors on the 1st pitch of P8 were oozing water around the resin. They were inspected by DCA and were found to be perfectly structurally sound by Hydrajaws testing. It turned out that these were not the anchors in question and that the complaint pertained to the anchors at the high level old iron ladder bypass to Pitch 2. It would save a lot of time and effort if persons reporting defects in placements could accurately describe where the offending anchors are positioned. As it was, an unnecessary trip was made by the installers. In future all complaints of defective anchors should be emailed directly to myself by the complainant giving precise details and a telephone number so I can ratify first hand their exact position. Any complaints by other routes will be ignored until accurate positioning of the offending placements is defined. Whilst I would always encourage cavers to bring defective anchors to DCA's attention, the installers have a hard enough job without being sent on pointless errands. I have been unable to contact the installers to check whether the old iron ladder pitch bolts have been checked and would advise that they are best avoided until further notice.

To protect the very expensive 36 volt Hilti drill I have obtained a Pelicase, courtesy of the BCA E&T Committee. This will no doubt prove its worth when it is dragged back and forth through St. Valentines sump during the re-bolting of the Filthy Five pitches planned for this winter.

I am also in the process of having two 8mm Y hangs manufactured for the pull-throughs in the Far Flats in Nettle Pot.

Bob Dearman
Equipment Officer

Item 6.7.2 - Notes on Cave Atmosphere Monitoring for the 01/11/14 DCA Meeting

1. Problems with CO₂. No problems have been reported since the June meeting.
2. I have received one request to use the DCA CO₂ meter from Ewan Cameron for use in Hazard Mine.
3. DCRO have now received all the equipment and sample gas needed for calibrating the CO₂ meters. This equipment was provided free of charge by Able Safety of Chesterfield. The DCRO meter and the DCA meter will both be calibrated regularly by DCRO as required.

Alan Brentnall
26 October 2014

Item 6.8 - Training Officer's Report

DCA TRAINING EVENTS 2014/15 Derbyshire Caving Association Caver Workshops Autumn/Winter

Caving Club Training Officers Workshop - Saturday **February 7th** 2015 - Derbyshire - £20 per person

Many clubs already have a CTO to whom it usually falls to organise and supervise training for newly joined novice cavers. This is **THE** workshop for 'training the Trainers'. This event is open to training officers anywhere in the UK.

DCA Try Caving day - Sunday March 15th - places available. £10 per person

SRT Introduction Workshop - Saturday February 21st - places available £30 per person

SRT Master class - Sunday **December 7th** - places available. £40 per person
- Sunday **March 22nd** - places available. £40 per person

Cave Photography Workshop - Wales - *phone for details as this is a very specialised event with limited places.* £40 per person.

Specialist Cave Leader Workshop

Sunday **November 9th** - Derbyshire

A practical workshop ideal for cavers already or are thinking about leading others underground.
£30 per person.

LEVEL 1 MODULE 1 - CORE SKILLS - *Taken directly from the LC/MLA scheme*

Candidates will have to demonstrate that their caving knowledge and experience is more than adequate to lead and give guidance to others in their charge. Candidates should however be able to move fluently and competently in the caves and mines in which they intend to lead novices.

Specialist SRT Rigging and Rescue Workshop - Sunday January 25th - places available
- Sunday March 8th - places available

This workshop is not an introduction to SRT, however there will be plenty of opportunity to pick up on techniques etc. People attending will be expected to demonstrate basic S.R.T. The day will be of an informal nature with emphasis on personal techniques improvement. £40 per person

BCA Cave Leader Training (LC/MLA)

Level 1 Wednesday & Thursday & Friday November 19th & 20th – Derbyshire - cave

Level 1 Wednesday & Thursday January 7th & 8th 2015 – Derbyshire - cave

Level 1 Friday January 9th 2015 – Derbyshire - mines day

Level 2 Thursday & Friday January 22nd & 23rd – Derbyshire - cave

Level 2 Thursday & Friday March 26th & 27th – Derbyshire - cave

BCA Cave Instructor Training (CIC) 2015

Thursday, Friday January 3rd & 4th (part 1)

Thursday, Friday January 10th & 11th (part 2)

Please **call** or **email** for further details on any of the above workshops and courses.

Nigel Atkins
DCA Training Officer

Item 6.9 - Newsletter Editor/Publications Officer's Report

Issue No 135 of The Derbyshire Caver was completed at the end of September 2014 and has now been printed and distributed. This was the second issue of the year – having volunteered to take over this post at the AGM I thought it sensible to aim to produce only 2 issues this year, given that it was something that I hadn't previously done and I wasn't sure how it would pan out. However, I aim to get it back on track to a quarterly publication next year.

Both 134 and 135 seem to have been well-received. Descent kindly did a review of the Spring Issue. The back page is now in colour along with the front cover and I am hoping to be able to use this to encourage cavers to submit photographs for publication. The cover price has now increased to £2.00 and the subscription price for 4 copies is £9.00 including postage – this is the first increase since 2000.

The next issue will be Spring 2015 which I shall have ready around the beginning of April. I have a couple of articles already, firm promises of 3 more, 2 that may or may not be produced by then, as well as ideas for 3 or 4 other items. I have posted requests for articles, etc, on both ukCaving and AditNow so this may produce something.

On the wider front I intend to start work this Winter on an index of the Newsletter from the first issue in 1962 right up to date. In the late 1970s an index was produced to Nos 1 to 39 of the current series and was published in the Newsletter in 3 separate parts, but it did not include the earlier series and nothing has been done since. This could be produced as a printed publication or included on the website as a download (or both).

Mike Higgins, DCA Newsletter Editor/Publications Officer
October 2014

Item 7.2 - BCA Council Representative's Report for meeting 11 October 2014

The meeting was extremely well attended and a number of important issues were discussed. The Minutes have yet to be issued but the main point was discussion of an appropriate response to the CRoW issue - whether access to caves should be included under the Countryside and Rights of Way legislation. There are differing views on this and BCA Council decided to seek the guidance of its members by sending a ballot to all its members before the end of the year, aiming to have the results in time for the 11 January 2015 Council Meeting. I have given more details on this in the Information Circular sent to DCA members on 16th. November and would urge all members to do their own research and to ensure that they complete and return the ballot paper when it arrives.

Other issues discussed were:

BCA subscription fees will remain the same for 2015; although we do not yet know the insurance premium BCA has sufficient reserves to absorb a price rise.

BCA's Conservation & Access Officer, Andrew Hinde, had given a presentation on British Cave and Karst Conservation at the *Eurospeleo Forum- Baille Herculane, Romania* in August. It was very well received.

The BCA Training Committee have designed and produced a leaflet promoting the availability of training grants for BCA member clubs. 1,000 have been printed. Hopefully this will raise club awareness and therefore increase the demand. This has yet to be circulated to clubs.

The IT Working Party has reported: once we have collected a member's email address we need to provide a system that will allow them to update it and any associated information such as permission to include them on a BCA mailing list. This is best done via the website by giving the member a secure account where they can login to update their details. A key feature must be that the members will manage their own details. The aim is to be able to use this system for ballots at some time in the future rather than the expense of postal ballots, which is what the CRoW ballot will have to be.

The BCA Minutes are posted on the website at british-caving.org.uk and always include all the officers reports - you have every opportunity to keep abreast of what BCA is doing on your behalf.

Jenny Potts,
DCA Rep. to BCA Council.