



# DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

## Open Council Meeting, 10am. 20 June 2015, Monyash Village Hall

### MINUTES

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Officers:</b>	Chairman	Terry Jackson [TJ]	(Ind.)
		Secretary	Jenny Potts [JP]	(Ind. & OCC)
		Treasurer	Wayne Sheldon [WS]	(Ind. & TSG)
		Conservation Officer	Mel Milner [MM]	(Ind. & Darfar P.C.)
		Access Officer	Ewan Cameron [EC]	(Ind.)
		Legal & Insurance Off.	Pete Mellors [PM]	Ind. Hon. Member
	<b>Clubs:</b>	Orpheus C.C.	Boyd Potts [BP]	
		SUSS	Will Whalley [WW]	

**Individual Members:** Angus Sawyer [AS], (Ewan Cameron, Terry Jackson, Pete Mellors, Mel Milner, Jenny Potts, Wayne Sheldon)

**1. Chairman's Welcome:**

1.1 T.Jackson welcomed members.

**1.2 Establish Quorum.**

Quorate with 5 Officers plus Chairman.

**2. Apologies for absence:**

Pete Knight (Projects Off.), Bob Dearman (Equipment Off.), Mike Higgins (N/L Editor), Alan Brentnall, Jim Borrington (Masson C.G.), Adam Russell (PDMHS), Graham Marshment (B.V.T.).

**3. To Approve Minutes of the previous Council Meeting: (28 February, previously circulated).**

*That the Minutes of Council Meeting of 28th. Feb. 2015 be approved.*

Prop. B.Potts, Sec. E.Cameron, **Agreed**

**4. Matters Arising therefrom: (Note that some of these items may be covered in Officers' Reports.)**

- 4.1 4.1 **Arrange for DCA plaques to be fitted to shaft lids.**  
Ongoing but not urgent. **ACTION: PK**
- 4.2 4.2 **Review DCA Fixed Aids Policy:** Ongoing. Awaiting BCA policy approval.  
BCA policy not being taken forward so DCA should now go ahead with its own. **ACTION: JP, BD**
- 4.3 4.3 **Magpie Mine / River Lathkill proposal - keep watch on progress.**  
Ongoing. **ACTION: MM**
- 4.4 4.4 **Level behind Bateman's Shaft :** P-bolts still required.  
Ongoing. **ACTION: BD, JB**
- 4.5 4.5 **Appoint new Trainer for bolt installers:**  
Jules Barrett now approved as 2nd. Trainer.
- 4.6 4.6 **Devonshire, agreed to defer securing door pending sale of land:**  
Ongoing. (See also EC Report, Item 6.5) Door appears to be OK and can be bolted shut correctly. **ACTION: AR**
- 4.7 4.7 **Manifold bolts required:** MM to supply BD with list of requirements for bolts for Manifold.  
Ongoing. **ACTION: MM**
- 4.8 4.8 **Odin Mine, check progress with N.T.:**  
Ongoing. AR reported that he is awaiting news of internal discussions of N.T. Members thought it to be unlikely that this will be re-opened for caver access due to liability issues for N.T. **ACTION: AR**
- 4.9 4.10 **Consent for work on EH sites - Fawcett Rake Shafts. AR**  
Ongoing. AR reported no progress. **ACTION: AR**
- 4.10 4.11 **Access to Christmas Swallet & Snelslow Swallet: EC, PM**  
(See EC Report, Item 6.5)
- 4.11 4.12 **Waterfall Hole Parking. PK, PM**  
(See PK report, Item 6.4 & PM report, Item 6.5)
- 4.12 4.13 **JH Leviathan Pitch.** Re-bolt the alternative route with BP bolts:  
(See BD report, Item 6.7.1) **ACTION: BD etc.**
- 4.13 6.1 **Chatsworth Licence renewals:**  
(See PM report, Item 6.5)
- 4.14 6.2 **Eyam Dale House Cave access:**  
JP has been in touch with Mark Noble; he is attempting to find a local keyholder and will get back to JP. **ACTION: JP**

**5. Election of New Members:**

**Individual Members:** Angus Sawyer, Prop. Wayne Sheldon. **Approved.**  
Nigel Ball, Prop. Jenny Potts. **Approved.**

**6. Officers' Reports:** (Where possible written reports will be tabled.)

**6.1 Secretary** (Written report tabled.)

6.1.a **That the Secretary's report be approved.** Prop. W.Sheldon, Sec. P.Mellors. **Agreed.**

**6.2 Treasurer** (Written report tabled.)

6.2.a **That the Treasurer's report be approved.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. E.Cameron **Agreed.**

**6.3 Conservation Officer** (Written report tabled.)

6.3.a **That the Conservation Officer's report be approved.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. E.Cameron. **Agreed.**

6.3.b **Email from BCA C&A Officer.** PM queried DCA's response to an email from the BCA C&A Officer to all BCA C&A contacts re. Southern Cave Instructors forming a group to follow up on cave conservation issues. JP said that she had responded and had cited PICA and their links with DCA as an example to follow up on.

**6.4 Projects Officer** (Written report tabled.)

6.4.a **That the Projects Officer's report be approved.** Prop. W.Sheldon, Sec. P.Mellors. **Agreed.**

6.4.b **Axe Hole.** Noted that the Axe Hole project has now been completed and an unlocked grid has been installed at the request of the landowner to protect stock. It is not intended that this grid will be fitted with a lock or "Derbyshire key" system bolt.

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

6.5.a **That the Access Officer's report be approved.** Prop. W.Sheldon, Sec. B.Potts. **Agreed.**

6.5.b **Giants Hole:** EC reported that gravel had been dumped on the car park at Giants to improve parking. A land bridge installed to improve drainage from Rushup Edge may possibly channel water into Snelslow Swallet.

6.5.c **Perryfoot Farm:** The farm which had become a dog rescue home is now for sale. It was thought there might be permission issues re. access to Dr. Jacksons and Perryfoot in the future. EC would be watching developments.

6.5.d **Titan shaft:** Repair work on the shaft is ongoing. DCA will be advised when it is re-opened for access.

6.5.e **Christmas Swallet:** Still no formal access permission from Mr. Baldacci, the landowner, for cavers to access Christmas Swallet. (EC believed the tenant farmer is unlikely to object to access.) PM queried whether DCA Liability booklet has been posted to Mr. Baldacci; as it has not so far been sent to him EC will put one in the letterbox at the farm.

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

6.6.a **That the Legal & Insurance Officer's report be approved.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. E.Cameron. **Agreed.**

6.6.b **Garden Path:** PM suggested that access to GP be eased if possible. This first requires statement from PM to publicise more widely how access can be obtained - PM would write the note and JP would ensure this is widely distributed. Garden Path needs a Cave Conservation Plan and it is suggested that interested cavers could be asked to help produce one. DCA has no knowledge of an existing C.C.P. for Garden Path so PM will check with Dave Webb whether one exists already. BP suggested a suitable set of guidelines could be produced for visiting cavers to ensure that no damage is done. JP suggested BP, PM, EC and MM liaise on production of a C.C.P. for Garden Path.

**ACTION: BP, PM, EC, MM**

**6.7.1 Equipment Officer** (Written report tabled.)

6.7.1.a **That the Equipment Officer's report be approved.** Prop. W.Sheldon, Sec. B.Potts. **Agreed.**

6.7.1.b **Approve proposals for the 2 new SRT routes suggested in the report: Peak Cavern, Assault Course & Rowter Pot new discoveries.**

Prop. B.Potts, Sec. W.Whalley. **Agreed**

6.7.1.c **Issues re. Resin Anchors:** JP reported on problem identified by the BCA E&T Committee re. extraction of BP anchors and the potential conservation issues. She also reported briefly on the new IC anchors approved for use by BCA E&T Committee and suggested those interested should look at the website noted in the Equipment Officer's report.

6.7.1.d **Test site for removal of BP anchors:** BP noted that BCA is looking for a suitable test site for removal of BP anchors in Derbyshire - various suggestions were made and would be followed up. **ACTION: BP**

**6.7.2 Cave Atmosphere Monitoring** (Written report tabled.)

6.7.2.a **That AB's Cave Atmosphere Monitoring report be approved.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. E.Cameron. **Agreed.**

### 6.8.1 Training Officer

6.8.1.a JP not heard from NA and had not report a report from NA by Friday evening. Noted that NA was in the middle of a busy season. He had already arranged Caver Training Events going up to July.

### 6.8.2 Progress Report - Cliffhanger, 11/12 July 2015 *(Verbal report from B.Potts, organiser.)*

BP reported NA is sending 2 people to help out with Cliffhanger and they will be bringing equipment for the ladder climbing. Colum Walsh is also helping so we will have CIC and LCMLA people on site.

The DCA Artificial Speleological System (aka ASS) is no longer being stored by N.T. at Edale so they will not be transporting it to Cliffhanger free of charge, as they have done for the past few years. The ASS is now stored in the DCA materials container near Stoney Middleton so BP has hired a van for 4 days to transport it to and from Sheffield. Help is needed in particular to load the ASS into the van on Friday afternoon; unload it at Sheffield on Friday afternoon and evening; re-load it into the van on Sunday evening and unload and return it the the DCA materials store on Monday.

More help is needed generally for the weekend to assist in running the event; volunteers to help for even a morning or afternoon would be very welcome and would help spread the load for everyone. BP would be sending out another call for volunteers after this meeting.

### 6.9 Newsletter Editor *(Written report tabled.)*

6.9.a ***That Newsletter Editor's report be approved.*** Prop. W.Sheldon, Sec. M.Milner. **Agreed.**

### 6.10 Co-option of Officers and Assistants, etc.:

6.10.1 **DCA Vice Chairman:** Co-opt Wayne Sheldon for rest of 2015/16 year. Prop. J.Potts, Sec. B.Potts. **Agreed.**

6.10.2 **DCA Assistant Treasurer:** Co-op Angus Sawyer for rest of 2015/16 year. Prop. W.Sheldon, Sec. W.Whalley. **Agreed.**

6.10.3 **Co-opt member of Cave Discovery Fund Grants Panel:** Ewan Cameron. Prop. J.Potts, Sec. W.Whalley. **Agreed.**

### 7. Approve Cave Discovery Fund Grant:

7.1 Grant to Buttered Badgers P.C. in respect of Rowter Hole discoveries.

CDF Panel has recommend a grant of £104.44 in line with conditions of the CDF Constitution.

***That a grant of £104.44 from the Cave Discovery Fund to Buttered Badgers P. C. in respect of Rowter Hole discoveries, as recommended by the C.D.F. panel, be agreed.***

Prop. W.Whalley, Sec. P.Mellors. **Agreed.**

### 8. BCA Reports and matters arising from BCA meetings: *(Written report tabled.)*

8.1 **Report from BCA AGM and following Council meeting.** J.Potts had attended as DCA Rep. and tabled her report.

8.1.a **Email contact details for BCA:** JP reminded members about email contact details needed by BCA, and amplified the details in her report as to why these were so important for the future.

### 9. Confirm Date and Venue of next meeting:

9.1 **2015 Council Meeting: 24 October 2015,** 10am at Monyash Village Hall. Date & venue already booked.

### 10. Any Other Business

10.1 **Eldon Hole - Application for funding from DCA to stabilise the route into the Main Chamber:** *(Written report tabled.)*

TJ noted that a similar request had been agreed by DCA in 1997 but E.N. could not fund it at that time. TJ had then proposed in Nov. 1998 that it be put on the 'back-burner' due to lack of funds and other more pressing work required.

***That the application for funding for the Eldon project be approved.***

Prop. W.Whalley, Sec. E.Cameron. **Agreed.**

Noted that there is no N.E. funding for this year for this project. Suggested the project could be paid for out of general DCA funds but that we should ask BCA to match DCA's funding.

***That DCA gives full support for this project up to the £1000 applied for. Funding to be paid in stages on completion of work and presentation of receipts.***

Prop. B.Potts, Sec. W.Whalley. **Agreed.**

10.2 **Euro 2016: 13-20 August 2016.**

BP explained that there will be pre- and post- camps related to Euro 2016. Main event is 13-20 August 2016 in Yorkshire and it is likely that Derbyshire could be chosen for a week's "camp" either before or after the main event. BP said he was willing to start co-ordinating the event in Derbyshire. Volunteers will be needed mid-week to assist with caving meets; transport, accommodation and food for delegates will be needed. Volunteers will be able to claim expenses from Euro 2016 organisers. JP will put out information to DCA. BP wants clubs who may be interested to contact him in the first instance.

**ACTION: BP**

**10.2 Long Rake Founder shaft, restoration of access:**

EC reported that he had been asked whether access to Long Rake Founder Shaft is likely to be restored.

JP said that in her view there is no chance of any access to L.R.F.S. following the incident in which cavers were overcome by Carbon Monoxide fumes since there can be no guarantee that this would not occur again. PM stated that, as the owner is aware of Carbon Monoxide danger, he would be in breach of his duty of care if he allowed access, so legally he is unable to give permission. Since the most likely source of the gas is thought to be the nearby quarries, there is no chance of any restoration of access until after the major quarries in the vicinity have ceased working, which is unlikely for many years.

**10.3 Hazelbadge Cave:**

PM queried access to Hazelbadge Cave, which is a mine entrance into a natural cave. Not known to be any access for many years since this was negotiated in the 1970s, under very strict conditions, by the now defunct Leicestershire Speleological Association.

PM suggested we seek backing from N.E. to investigate the state of the site as it is an SSSI. Agreed that PM would attempt to make progress.

**ACTION: PM**

There being no other business the meeting ended at 12.20pm.

*J.E.Potts, Recorder*

**Appended to these minutes and forming part of them are the following documents:**

- Item 6.1 - Secretary's Report**
- Item 6.2 - DCA Treasurer's Report**
- Item 6.3 - Conservation Officer & Webmaster's Report – June 2015**
- Item 6.4 - Projects Officer's Report**
- Item 6.5 - Access Officer's Report**
- Item 6.6 - Legal & Insurance Officer's Report**
- Item 6.7.1 - Equipment Officer's Report**
- Item 6.7.2 - Notes on Cave Atmosphere Monitoring for the 20/06/15 DCA Meeting**
- Item 6.9 - Newsletter Editor/Publications Officer's Report**
- Item 8.1 - BCA AGM 2015 Report**

## Item 6.1 - Secretary's Report

### Communications

Since the AGM I have sent out to everyone by post the Minutes of the 2015 AGM, the 2014 Annual Report & Accounts and *The Derbyshire Caver* no. 136.

I have emailed to everyone for whom I have contact details the Minutes of the 18 Feb. 2015 Council Meeting, Information Circular 2015/2 (10 May), DCA Training Courses details and Agenda for Council Meeting of 20th. June 2015 plus reminders about the BCA AGM on 14th. June. (These have been posted to those for whom I have no email address.)

I have also sent out 8 brief emails re. access issues, safety warnings, etc. and almost all of these have also been posted on UK caving along with notification of this Council Meeting. For those who do not have an email link, this information is always repeated in the next Information Circular.

### Publications Sales

As reported by the Treasurer, I continue to deal with sales of *Caves of the Peak District*, which continues to sell steadily, albeit in smaller numbers nowadays so amounting to an average of 13 copies per month. I also deal with sales of DCA's Cave Conservation Audits, which continue to sell slowly and steadily.

*Jenny Potts, 18-6-15*

## Item 6.2 - DCA Treasurer's Report

Current funds up to the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015 are:

Deposit a/c: £18,289.65  
 Current a/c: £ 1,191.51  
 Total: £19,481.16

There is a list of payments in and out of the accounts since 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015:

Payments in:		Payments out:	
Membership Fees:	£46.00	Conservation and Access Work:	£434.19
COPD Income:	£275.00	General Admin:	£486.02
Bank Interest:	£17.47	Newsletter / Publications Expenses:	£289.88
Training	£70.00	Natural England: Longcliffe Mine	275.61
Publications (excluding: CoPD):	£131.00	Conservation Officer Float	£188.67
BCA	£191.85		
Natural England: Longcliffe Mine	£980.61		
Totals:	£1711.93		£1674.37

### Caves of the Peak District:

Jenny Potts deals with all publication sales. Sales of COPD are still trickling through; we have taken £325.00 this year so far. Our main customers tend to be Hitch N Hike, Gardners Book and Starless River that make regular orders. Jenny still takes publications to events such as Hidden Earth, Cliffhanger etc. Sales records and a sales graph are available at this meeting.

### BCA Core Funding:

I submitted the accounts to BCA on the 03<sup>rd</sup> May 2015. Provisional we are down to get £858.09 from BCA for core funding in 2014. This should be finalised by the end of July.

### Cliffhanger Event 2014:

We finally received the funding for Cliffhanger 2014, a few weeks ago. BCA has agreed to cover the costs of travel and consumables for this year's event.

### Natural England 2014 Funding:

We are still outstanding a couple of claims. The delay in getting these claims paid is due to an issue with VAT. Hopefully this is now resolved as the Longcliffe Mine Shaft Restoration claim was received a few days ago. The outstanding claims are White River Series Clean Up and Manifold Valley Conservation work.

### Bank Accounts:

On the instruction of council, I have opened up a current and deposit account with the Unity Trust Bank. The paperwork has literally just come through so the balances on these accounts are zero. My plan now is to do a staged transition between the RBS and Unity Trust Accounts.

### Cave Discovery Fund:

After a break of many years, we have finally received an application from Buttered Badger Potholing Club for their exploration and discovery of cave in Rowter Hole. The claim was for a total of £219.08. The claim was put to the Cave Discovery Fund panel, this was discussed and according to the constitution and guidelines, we have awarded them £104.44. This council meeting needs to approve this amount. A subsequent article about the discovery will appear in the Newsletter.

I need to relinquish some of my workload, this is partly due to my increased workload at work and a new project that I'm working on and I'm constantly working with spreadsheets / figures; having to come home and do it, is a bit of a bind. This is also stopping me

doing other cave related projects that interest me. I have managed to find somebody who is willing to take on the treasurer role but in the interim be my assistant, gradually passing jobs across until the AGM next year, when he will fully become the Treasurer.

As I don't want to abandon DCA and still want to be involved in the organisation as several of the cave related projects that I am involved in, are for the good of Peak District Caving. In order to facilitate this, I am willing to stand for the role of vice chairman.

**Wayne Sheldon**  
**DCA Hon. Treasurer**  
**10/06/2015**

### **Item 6.3 - Conservation Officer & Webmaster's Report – June 2015**

#### **Manifold Area**

Checking numerous entrances to see which ones need new bolts, etc. Several new entrances near Dale Mine that need checking.

#### **Axe Hole**

Axe Hole entrance boulder blockage removed by Pete Knight and team, permanent gate being fitted. See Pete's report.

#### **Eldon Hole**

Forgetting the dig at the bottom, several people are gathering up as much scrap metal as they can for hauling up main shaft and removal from the cave.

The digging team area assessing the best way of keeping the slope to the main chamber clear.

#### **Web Site**

I have updated all the meeting agendas, reports and minutes, a long job.

**Mel Milner, June 2015**

### **Item 6.4 - Projects Officer's Report**

Apologies for my absence but I'm working out of area at the moment.

#### **Waterfall Hole**

A new parking area has been completed here with the help of Pete Mellors, Andy McHugh, Nick Williams, Adam Russell, Simon Brooks and the cooperation of the surrounding landowners. The job took a number of visits as our availability waivered. There were initial clearing visits followed by a digger day, a weed killer day, a membrane day and finally a gravel spreading day where Pete and I spread the 20 tons of gravel.

The area is complete and ready to use although the NT would prefer it to not be widely advertised. They declined to help us with the cost of a wooden sign at the parking area.

Status: COMPLETE

#### **Axe Hole**

Recently a boulder washed out of the banks over the entrance of Axe Hole, completely blocking it. At this time, members of the Crewe CPC are in the final stages of arrangements to dispatch the boulder using explosives. Thanks to Nigel Cooper for spearheading this action on DCA's behalf.

Status: NEARLY FINISHED

As a follow up to this, the DCA will need to arrange the installation of a lid or stock fence at the cave as part of the agreement with the landowner to undertake this clearance work.

#### **Eldon Hole**

Following a report of suspect steelwork, the ground anchors on the Eldon Hole east and west routes have been condemned. They are still in situ at this time. T-Pot (Derek Stables) was kind enough to fabricate the DCA some replacements and these are currently in the storage container awaiting installation. Roy Rogers has indicated that he would be willing to aid in the installation of these new anchors this summer.

Status: ON GOING

I've hit my busy summer period now so I suspect my next 'on the ground' may not be until October/November. Once again, I am very happy to support volunteers wishing to take on jobs for the DCA but may not always be able to physically participate.

**Pete Knight**  
**5-6-15**

### **Item 6.5 - Access Officer's Report**

#### **Waterfall**

Big well done to all involved in parking area and can we remind people no access needs to be arranged to visit.

#### **Permits**

We have been receiving a request from Pete Dell for ABMM.

#### **Christmas Swallet**

On further to my last it seems a land bridge has been constructed for access to the top of the valley and may well change the flow of water to C.S. and other caves in the area

### **Devonshire Mine**

Still for sale no more news.

### **Giants Hole**

All access back up and running however work will start on better car parking area soon.

### **Titan**

Still no news as to future dates for the work to be carried out on the entrance. Have DCA Projects got any info?

### **Perryfoot**

I have noticed that the farm on the land that Perryfoot is on is now for sale.

*Ewan Cameron, 18/06/15  
DCA Access Officer*

## **Item 6.6 - Legal & Insurance Officer's Report**

### **Chatsworth Licences**

All three of these access licences (Lathkill Upper & Garden Path entrances, along with the Ashford Black Marble Mine) are due for renewal this year. The Lathkill ones expired in March and have already been renewed for a further 3 years. The one for the Marble Mine expires in October. I am indebted to Boyd Potts for his reports on the state of the two Lathkill sites, and to Ewan Cameron for information on recorded visits to the Garden Path over the past year.

Personally I feel DCA should revisit the criteria governing visits to the Garden Path with a view to bringing it more into line, say, with the system operating at Water Icicle Close. I believe the present system to be too restrictive and visits too infrequent.

### **Waterfall Hole**

The car park (as seen on UKCaving, courtesy of Pete Knight's photographs) was completed in May. We are no wiser as to who owns the lane and its verges. The National Trust bought the walled area containing the swallet and tell us cavers do not require permission from them to go underground. In view of the continuing question mark over ownership of the lane, the Trust have advised us to keep the car park a low key affair to minimise DCA's liability for the safety of visitors who are not cavers. Meanwhile the Trust have no plans to promote the site as a tourist attraction.

I am grateful particularly to Nick Williams, not only for loan of his digger but for smoothing relations for us with local residents who could otherwise have been much less helpful.

### **Eldon Hill Quarry**

We seem to be winning the PR battle here inasmuch as cavers are no longer perceived by owner and tenant as the bad guys. In May the padlock and chain disappeared from the gate and now cavers are asked to report any suspicious behaviour they come across. Visiting cavers continue to be expected to carry evidence of insurance cover, to fill in the logbook, and to keep in mind vehicles are not permitted inside the quarry limits except by special authorisation.

*Peter Mellors  
Legal & Insurance Officer*

## **Item 6.7.1 - Equipment Officer's Report**

1. **Apologies.** Bob Dearman gives apologies for absence on pre-planned trip abroad and reports via JP.
2. **Installers and Trainers**  
Jules Barratt is now qualified as an instructor for training installers of BP bolts so there are now 2 Trainers. There are now 4 installers: BD, JB, Sam Townsend and Henry Rockcliff.  
2 more people have expressed interest in being trained as installers and JB is taking this forward.
3. **Replacements & faults identified**  
2 replacement bolts identified as being needed:  
**Giants:** backup bolt above Garlands.  
**Suicide:** Y-hang bolt above 1st, Pitch.  
Recent report (15 June) of fault with cable & ring Y-hang on the pull-thro' to **Pilgrim's Way in Oxlow.**
4. **New rigging installations already approved, action required**  
(Approved 28-2-15) alternative route to Leviathan in JH.  
Bateman's Shaft, Lathkilldale.  
Various sites in the Manifold Valley which require hand-line anchors (as notified by Mel Milner).
5. **DCA Council is requested to approve in principle New SRT rigging routes**
  1. **Peak Cavern:** Assault Course - requested by Peak Keyholders.
  2. **Rowter Hole:** New discoveries need to be rigged - requested by Buttered Badger P. C.
6. **Current problems noted**  
Bob reports problems getting trained installers on site to do the work at present as many of them are involved in the outdoor pursuits industry and summer is their busiest time.

*Bob Dearman, 4-6-15*

## **7. Late note appended by JP arising from Equipment Report to BCA AGM on 14 June:**

It has been noted that, in extracting BP bolts using the standard extraction method, more than 50% create so much damage to the surrounding rock that the location of the hole is not suitable for re-use, creating conservation issues. Hence BCA Equipment Committee are looking into alternative methods of extracting DMM and BP anchors.

At its meeting in March the Equit. Comm. adopted a new type of resin anchor, the "IC Anchor", developed by Simon Wilson (see [www.resinanchor.co.uk](http://www.resinanchor.co.uk)); training for installing these is going ahead in the CNCC area. (The IC anchor needs a smaller hole to be drilled and can be removed without damage to the rock.) At present there are insufficient of these in production to meet demand in other areas so DCA will continue to install BP anchors, of which there is a good supply.

## **Item 6.7.2 - Notes on Cave Atmosphere Monitoring for the 20/06/15 DCA Meeting**

### **1. Problems with CO<sub>2</sub>**

One problem has been reported since the AGM - possible accumulations of CO<sub>2</sub> in Thunder Shaft, a winze off the main cartgate in Slaley Sough in Via Gellia. This was investigated on 21/03/2015 when a party of DCRO members accompanied me to the mine and the air was analysed throughout using a variety of meters measuring CO<sub>2</sub> and other gases. Very low concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> were found throughout, the reading for Thunder Shaft itself being 0.07%.

There have been no other reports of CO<sub>2</sub> problems this year, presumably because of the unseasonably cold weather.

### **2. Problems with other gases.**

On 23/04/2015 a group reported a smell similar to household gas in the vicinity of the internal Carlswark sump, below Aladdin's Crawl. This fitted in with similar reports on the surface, around the area opposite the end of Cucklet Delph. On 25/04/2015, a small group from TSG took Draeger tubes, borrowed from Nick Williams, and took samples in the area reported, but found no evidence of methane. They also checked the area opposite Cucklet Delph, but no smell was apparent. This may be an intermittent problem.

### **3. DCA's CO<sub>2</sub> meter**

DCA's CO<sub>2</sub> meter has been recalibrated by me at DCRO base. Since then the recalibration equipment has had to be returned to the maker because of a problem, but, hopefully, it will be back with us before the next recalibration is due.

I have received no requests to use the DCA CO<sub>2</sub> meter since the AGM.

*Alan Brentnall  
02 June 2015*

## **Item 6.9 - Newsletter Editor/Publications Officer's Report**

Issue No 136 of *The Derbyshire Caver* was completed in April 2015 and was duly printed and distributed. They seem to be selling OK – I was in the Mining Museum a month ago and they had 2 copies left, likewise at Hitch 'n' Hike last week.

The next issue will be Summer 2015 which I shall have ready for printing at the beginning of July when I get back from France. I have most of the articles already sorted and am expecting the final one at the end of June. My plea for some colour photographs for the back cover has been answered. I am optimistic that we shall be able to produce 4 issues this year as I already have some copy for the Autumn issue plus a promise of a couple of interesting items.

Work has started on the index of the Newsletter from the first issue in 1962 right up to date and is proceeding slowly but surely.

*Mike Higgins, June 2015  
DCA Newsletter Editor/Publications Officer*

## **Item 8.1 - BCA AGM 2015 Report**

1. It was a good weekend and well organised by the Forest of Dean people and was combined with the British Cave Rescue Council Annual Conference. However, this did mean that some who might have come to the AGM were involved in lectures and demonstrations for BCRA so there were only around 25 BCA members in all at the AGM.

2. Bob Mehew's proposal about polling members by email was amended so that it allowed other methods of polling as well, so as not to exclude those for whom BCA has no email address. With that amendment it was passed.

There was a reminder linked to this that BCA needs to have email addresses for as many as possible of all its members. This would allow such polls to be conducted with maximum efficiency and minimum expenditure, given appropriate safeguards (which are already being looked into). It would also allow individual members to maintain their own address and other contact details (without incurring the delays resulting from being linked to BCA via a club). It would also to allow basic BCA information (AGM notifications, etc.) to be sent direct to **all** individual members and members could also to opt in to receive emailed BCA Newsletters and other information.

3. The meeting approved the proposal by the BCA Secretary & Chairman to "... confirm that the Constitution allows BCA to seek clarification from DEFRA and Natural England on their existing guidance on the CRoW Act and its application to Caving." There was one vote against the proposal.

4. Tim Allen was co-opted by BCA Council as CRoW Liaison Officer; he has been researching the CRoW legislation intensively and will aid the Chairman by providing information and support in his discussions with DEFRA and NE. There was one vote against the co-option.

*Jenny Potts, 18-6-15*