



# DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

## Open Council Meeting, 24 October 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)
		Asst. Treasurer	Angus Sawyer [AS]	(ind.)
		Legal & Insurance Off.	Pete Mellors [PM]	Ind. Hon. Member
		Projects Officer	Pete Knight [PM]	(Ind. & DCMC)
		Equipment Officer	Bob Dearman [BD]	(Ind. & EPC)
		N/L Editor	Mike Higgins [MH]	(Ind.)

<b>Clubs:</b>	Masson C. G.	Paul Chandler [PC], Dennis Jump [DJ]
	Orpheus C.C.	Boyd Potts [BP]
	T.S.G.	Alan Brentnall [AB]

**Individual Members:** (Bob Dearman, Mike Higgins, Terry Jackson, Pete Knight, Pete Mellors, Jenny Potts, Angus Sawyer, Wayne Sheldon)

#### 1. Chairman's Welcome: Establish Quorum.

1.1 **Welcome:** TJ welcomed members.

1.2 **Quorum:** Meeting was quorate with 7 officers present.

#### 2. Apologies for absence:

**Apologies received from:** Access Officer, Ewan Cameron; Training Officer, Nigel Atkins, Elaine Hill, Adam Russell (PDMHS), Will Whalley (SUSS).

#### 3. To Approve Minutes of the previous Council Meeting: (20 June, previously circulated).

JP Pointed out that item 6.8.1.a, 1st. line, should read "... had not received a report ..." - a typographical error.

**That the Minutes of Council Meeting 20 June 2015 be taken as read.** Prop. BP, Sec. WS. **Agreed Unanimously.**

**That, with the addition of the amendment noted by JP, the Minutes be accepted as a correct record.** Prop. BP, Sec. WS. **Agreed Unanimously....**

#### 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.** Progress ? (Ongoing but not urgent.)  
Ongoing so no need to record in future minutes.

4.2 4.2 **Review DCA Fixed Aids Policy:** Ongoing. Awaiting BCA policy approval.  
Ongoing.

**ACTION: JP, BD**

4.3 4.3 **Magpie Mine / River Lathkill proposal.** Keep watch on progress.  
Refer to 6.3

4.4 4.4 **Level behind Bateman's Shaft :** P-bolts required —.BD, JB  
Refer to 6.7.1

4.5 4.6 **Devonshire, agreed to defer securing door pending sale of land.**

The House and land have now been sold. AB reported that the new owner is positive about allowing access but has concerns about the shafts in woods because of children. Agreed that DCA would need to check the state of the shafts and would consider action, depending on what is found.

**ACTION: PK, et al.**

4.6 4.7 **Manifold bolts required:** BD needs list of requirements for bolts for Manifold.

No list had so far been supplied. Suggested that Rob Thorne of Darfar P. C. could provide a list for BD. JP would liaise with RT.

**ACTION: JP**

4.7 4.8 **Odin Mine:** Check progress with N.T.

AR was not present to report. Believed to be still no progress.

**ACTION: AR**

4.8 4.9 **Consent for work on EH sites - Faucett Rake Shafts.**

It was suggested this related to the collapse of the road, in which case there was no need to record this further.

(Later correction from AR: The issue is a number of shafts on the slope over the road that need dealing with; various options will be discussed with Heritage England to see if scheduled monument consent would be required or not.)

**ACTION: AR**

4.9 4.12 **JH Leviathan Pitch.** Re-bolt the alternative route with BP bolts.

Refer to 6.7.1

4.10 4.14 **Eyam Dale House Cave access:** New keyholder required.

Ongoing.

**ACTION: JP**

- 4.11 6.4 **Eldon Hole:** Ground anchors renewal.  
Refer to 6.4
- 4.12 6.5.d **Titan shaft repair work:** Progress?  
Understood to be ongoing.
- 4.13 6.5.e **Christmas Swallet & Snelslow Swallet:** Access.  
Refer to 6.5
- 4.14 6.6.b **Garden Shaft:** Access arrangements improvement.  
Refer to 6.6
- 4.15 6.7.1.b **Bolt Installation:** Progress re. requests for new bolting approved 20/6/15 (Rowter, Peak Cavern Assault Course.)  
Refer to 6.7.1
- 4.16 10.1 **Eldon Hole:** Funding to support work to stabilise route to Main Chamber, progress.  
Work is to be resumed this autumn. Confirmed DCA had agreed to help with funding. **ACTION: WS**
- 4.17 10.2 **EuroSpeleo2016:** Derbyshire "camp".  
BP reported there is a proposal for a Derbyshire "camp" using OCC accommodation and assistance from other local clubs. Information will go in the official website shortly. BP is continuing to liaise. **ACTION: BP**
- 4.18 10.3 **Hazelbadge Cave:** Access.  
Refer to 6.6.

## 5. Election of New Members:

None proposed

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

### 6.1 Secretary: (Written report tabled.)

- 6.1.1 **That the Secretary's Report be approved.** Prop. PK, Sec. BD. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.1.2 **EuroSpeleo2016 stand:** Agreed that DCA should put on an information stand showing details of DCA cave conservation work plus some sales of DCA publications. JP offered to organise this and some volunteers might be needed to help man the stand. **ACTION: JP**

### 6.2 Treasurer: (Written report tabled.)

- 6.2.1 **That the Treasurer's Report be approved.** Prop. JP, Sec. PK. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.2.2 **Conservation Officer's float.** Following Mel Milner's untimely death, WS will check computer records and try to identify any monies still held by MM.  
**That DCA write off any outstanding balance up to known float amount.** Prop. AS, Sec. PC. **Agreed Nem con.**  
JP reminded members that we should clearly mark all DCA equipment, etc. held by officers as "property of DCA" with the DCA website address as contact information.
- 6.2.3 **Bank accounts:** The Unity Trust Current A/c is now operational, requiring 2 signatures on a cheque and a 2nd. person to authorise direct bank transfers via the web.  
It was **agreed to leave both RBS current and deposit open with but minimum amounts.** **ACTION: WS, AS**
- 6.2.4 **Publications sales:** JP noted Gardners Books were still paying into DCA's old RBS account, despite being given the details of the Unity Trust Bank. JP would chase them. **ACTION: JP**

### 6.3 Statement re. Conservation Officer Business: (Written report tabled by JP.)

- 6.3.1 JP reported on matters being dealt with by Mel Milner outside the Conservation Officer's remit to remind members of issues which need to be covered.  
**DCA Cave Conservation Audits:** BP offered to do a test run to check if he is able to print these; if successful he is willing to take over printing these at cost for DCA to sell. **ACTION: BP**  
**BCA C&A Meetings:** JP is already liaising with the BCA C&A Officer Andrew Hinde, and acts as recorder for the BCA meetings. JP will represent DCA at BCA C&A meetings pro tem. **ACTION: JP**

### 6.4 Projects Officer: (Written report tabled.)

- 6.4.1 **That the Projects Officer's Report be approved.** Prop. JP, Sec. AB. **Agreed unanimously**
- 6.4.2 **Wharf Pipe Shaft repairs:** AB reported on Wharf Pipe job. The packwall had been repaired using mesh and Postcrete so there was no further danger of falling rocks. Thanks to Crewe C.P.C. and TSG members who had completed this.
- 6.4.3 **Waterways Swallet site:** BP offered on behalf of OCC to take over maintenance of the Waterways site & car park.
- 6.4.4 **Longcliffe Mine:** WS reported that, with the approval of N.T., work is still going on to reopen the site.

### 6.5 Access Officer: (Apologies sent but written report tabled.)

- 6.5.1 **Giants Hole Land:** Noted that new BP bolts would be needed for safe access to Snelslow and Christmas Swallet and this cannot be done until formal access is possible. Assumed that, if permission were granted, parking would be the same as for Giants with the same charge. PM suggested that he should work with EC re. access to Snelslow and Christmas Pot because it is a question of liability. PM is to contact the Access Officer direct. **ACTION: PM**
- 6.5.2 **That the Access Officer's Report be approved.** Prop. AB, Sec. WS. **Agreed unanimously**

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

6.6.1 **That the Legal & Insurance Officer's Report be approved.** Prop. PK, Sec. MH. **Agreed unanimously.**

6.6.2 **Ashford Black Marble Mine:** There are signs that someone is chipping out minerals deliberately and debris from this had been seen on the floor. DCA needs to chase up who is doing this because of potential risk to pack walls. Believed it must be someone with access to a key so this needs to be followed up. Keys are numbered so it should be possible to check if any are missing and also possible to check the log book in the shop. PK can check with PICA members. BD will visit using his card and clear up current remains so we can check if any fresh working is carried out. **ACTION: PK, BD**

6.6.3 **Garden Path permit:** PM introduced his suggested permit. Before putting this into operation we need to check who has a key to Garden Path other than BD and DCRO. (AB will check DCRO.) Note that Chatsworth & N.E. need to be happy with the permit. Members present were happy with terms but agreed that applicant's contact details should be filled on the sheet so that BD can check or chase missing keys. Agreed the permit should be exchanged for a key and the set of completed permits returned to PM annually. **ACTION: PM, BD**

JP reminded members we had agreed to remove the wooden staging. No problems with removing the platforms in the shaft but noted there is some difficulty re. the bottom platform as there needs to be something for cavers to stand on whilst detaching themselves from the rope - the last platform needs replacing with metal, e.g. galvanised grill. PK and BD would liaise on this. **ACTION: PM, BD**

6.6.4 **Hazelbadge Cave:** PC reported having approached the farmer who claimed to be willing to allow access but said he could not find the key. Agreed the position is unclear. PM noted that NE will need access to monitor the SSSI so they will approach the owners about access. He would follow this up. **ACTION: PM**

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

6.7.1.a **Eyam Dale shaft:** BD has had report of suspect anchor at top of Eyam Dale shaft this will need to be checked.

6.7.1.b **New installers:** There are now a number of new people to share the load on installing BP anchors. Things should speed up this winter.

6.7.1.c **Suicide:** PK noted he had had a report from instructor re. bolt in Suicide being loose. This would need to be checked.

6.7.1.d **That the Equipment Officer's Report be approved.** Prop. BP, Sec. PK. **Agreed unanimously.**

6.7.1.e **BCA E&T Meetings:** PK would not be able to attend the next so may one of the new installers can take this on in due course.

**6.7.2 Cave Atmosphere Monitoring:** *(Written report tabled by AB.)*

6.7.2.a **Water Icicle:** BP noted a problem had been reported on the w/e 18/19 Oct. but no problem had been encountered during a visit by AB a week prior to this.

6.7.2.b **Clayton Adit:** There was a query about what gas might be present as there was a report of a particular area which seems to cause problems. This was checked.

6.7.2.c **That the Cave Atmosphere Monitoring Report be approved.** Prop. MH, Sec. PM. **Agreed unanimously.**

**6.8 Training Officer:** *(Apologies sent but written report tabled)*

6.8.1 **List of Events.** JP will send out this list of events produced by NA with Minutes and next Information Circular and it will go on the website. **ACTION: JP**

6.8.2 **That the Training Officer's Report be approved.** Prop. PK, Sec. BD. **Agreed unanimously.**

6.8.2 **Cliffhanger:** A brief report had appeared in the Information Circular 2015/3:

*Many thanks to all the cavers from various DCA clubs who assisted during the event at Millhouses Park, Sheffield. Volunteers helped to collect the DCA "cave" from its store and set it up on Friday afternoon, returned it there on Sunday evening and helped to run the attraction for literally hundreds of children (and a few older adventurers) all day Saturday and Sunday. The Ladder Climbing ran very successfully on both Saturday and Sunday, after being set up and run by Colum Walsh and his helpers on Saturday and then run by Nigel Atkins and his helpers on Sunday. Pleasing to report that around 20+ older people enquired at the DCA stand tent for information on how to go caving and were given advice on joining local caving clubs.*

A full report with photos would appear in DCA N/L 139.

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

6.9.1 **That the Newsletter Editor's Report be approved.** Prop. BP, Sec. PK. **Agreed unanimously.**

6.9.2 Comment from members present that MH is doing a brilliant job and it is good to see NL coming out regularly.

**6.10 Website Discussion:** *(Written report tabled)*

6.10.1 **Thanks:** JP proposed a vote of thanks to WS for handling difficult situation re website maintenance. **Agreed.**

6.10.2 **Website Admin arrangements:** Noted that details of these need to be copied to Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman and Webmaster. Ownership of the domain name needs to be registered with DCA as an organisation but also needs an address which can be referred to; JP suggested that this could be the BCA official address rather than an individual person's address. **ACTION: WS, JP**

6.10.3 **Posting DCA information on the web:** DCA's work must be recorded in detail on our own website and it should be possible to arrange arrange links to the DCA site from UKcaving if a brief note was posted there to alert cavers generally.

- 6.10.4 **Webmaster:** **AS** agreed to take over as DCA webmaster. Thanks from all! WS and AS will investigate incorporating the Peak Cave Monitoring website into the DCA website.
- 6.10.5 **Peak District On-line Access Guide:** WS explained that this is based on the BCA servers and access is via DCA website administration. Individual registrars are needed to deal with each area and upload their own additions. Access to the Guide for enquirers will be through the DCA website. The information online can be updated in catchment sections as each is completed.  
*That WS goes ahead with Peak District On-line Access Guide as described.*  
Prop. BP, Sec. BD. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.10.6 **Information for the Guide:** JP will circulate the details of the proposed guide as indicated by WS to clubs and individual members with request for help. **ACTION: JP**

## **7. BCA Reports and matters arising from BCA meetings:**

### **7.1 Reports from BCA Council 10 October.** (*Written report tabled.*)

- 7.1.a **£10 reduction in BCA subscription for DIMs:** JP explained that the reduction by £10 for the annual subscription for Direct Individual Members of BCA proposed for 2016 was because BCA was no longer offering printed copies of "Speleology" to DIMs as BCRA has ceased to produce it.
- 7.1.b **BCA email contacts with members:** JP explained that BCA wished to be able to register the email addresses of its individual members (both CIMs and DIMs) to enable it to communicate administrative notices by email and also to allow all members to vote online. Online voting would be much more efficient and less expensive for BCA, although voting papers would still be posted to those who were not registered with an email address. Not all clubs supplied email addresses for their members so each caver needed to check that their email address was on record with BCA. Once registered by BCA, individuals would be able to **opt in** if they wished to receive emailed BCA newsletters, etc. or anything other than voting papers or administrative notices. Members should check the BCA website and, if their contact details were incorrect or incomplete, they should contact the BCA Membership Secretary to ask for these record to be updated.

## **8. Confirm Date and Venue of next meeting:**

- 8.1 **2016 A.G.M.: 27 February 2016**, 10am at Monyash Village Hall.  
JP would ensure the correct date is advertised.

## **9. Any Other Business**

- 9.1 **John Beck:** JP explained that, following John's death earlier in the year, his complete collection of books, documents, journals, surveys, etc. had been left to BCRA and that these were to be placed in the British Caving Library, situated near Buxton. Work was currently in hand to arrange for this to be done as soon as possible.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 13:11.

*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's Business
- 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 24/10/15 DCA Meeting
- Item 6.8 - Training Officer's Report
- Item 6.9 - Newsletter Editor/Publications Officer's Report
- Item 6.10 - DCA (Temporary) Webmaster Report
- Item 7.1 - Report from BCA Council Meeting of 10/10/15



# DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

## Open Council Meeting, 24 October 2015, Monyash Village Hall

### REPORTS

#### Item 6.1 - Secretary's Report

##### Communications

Since the meeting on 20th. June I have emailed to everyone for whom I have contact details the Minutes of the 20 June 2015 Council Meeting, Information Circular 2015/3 (14 August) and Agenda for Council Meeting of 24 October 2015. The Information Circular 2015/3 carried the sad news of the sudden death of our Conservation Officer, Mel Milner. (These items have been posted to those for whom I have no email address.) I also posted out to members 2 issues of "The Derbyshire Caver": No. 137 in July, No. 138 in October and delivered these to shop outlets.

There has been no need to send out any separate brief information emails during the period since 20 June but I have kept a watch on UKcaving, as have other Officers. I will send out Information Circular 2015/4 after this meeting along with the Minutes.

I maintain updated lists of Individual, Club and Associate Members and these are sent to the Treasurer each time there is an amendment.

##### Publications Sales

I continue to deal with sales of *Caves of the Peak District*, which sells steadily at an average of 13 copies per month (£540 so far this year) - mainly trade sales now - total out is over 1260 copies. I also deal with sales of DCA's Cave Conservation Audits, which continue to sell slowly and steadily. I put on a small DCA stand at Hidden Earth (on Mendip this year) and sold 3 Cave Conservation Audits and 2 Newsletters - a total of £37.00.

Query: do we want to put on a DCA sales/information stand at EuroSpeleo2016?

*Jenny Potts, 23 October 2015*

#### Item 6.2 -DCA Treasurers Report

Current funds up to the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015 are:

RBS Deposit a/c:	£12,503.60
RBS Current a/c:	£1,366.88
Unity Current a/c:	£400.07
Unity Deposit a/c:	£5,130.99
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£19,401.54</b>

There is a list of payments in and out of the accounts since 20<sup>th</sup> June 2015:

Payments in:		Payments out:	
Membership Fees:	£18.00	Conservation and Access Work:	£635.86
COPD Income:	£247.00	General Admin:	£199.41
Bank Interest:	£18.10	Newsletter / Publications Expenses:	£476.35
Donations:	£56.00	Natural England:	£365.18
Publications (excluding: CoPD):	£61.00	Cliffhanger:	£349.98
BCA – Cliffhanger:	£218.78	Cave Discovery Fund:	£104.44
Natural England: Various:	2022.47		
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>£2641.35</b>		<b>£2,121.22</b>

##### BCA Core Funding:

The core funding has still not been paid by BCA but I am told by the BCA Treasurer that it will be paid shortly.

##### Cliffhanger Event 2015:

I submitted a claim to BCA for £418.78 but minus a training grant application of £200 that Nigel Atkins has applied for and I'm told has been successful. This hasn't been received yet. The claim for the remainder, £218.78 has been paid by BCA.

##### Natural England 2014 Funding:

The claims submitted to Natural England, were paid to us in July.

##### Bank Accounts:

The transition between the RBS and Unity Trust Accounts is just about there. The new bank details have been sent to BCA. We are leaving the membership standing orders for 2016 to be paid into the RBS account. I will now transfer most of the money to the Unity Trust accounts, following this meeting. What does council suggest we leave in these accounts?

**Conservation Officer Float:**

DCA provided Mel with a float so she could undertake conservation work. On the 16<sup>th</sup> June, the amount on her float was £120.65. Since that date and prior to her death, I hadn't received an update so at this moment in time, this amount is unallocated. We don't know whether it has been used or it still resided in her bank account. We now have a copy of Mel's computer, well anything caving / DCA related so there could be a balance sheet on there so this won't be resolved yet.

*Wayne Sheldon, DCA Hon. Treasurer  
19/10/2015*

### **Item 6.3 - Conservation Officer's Business**

Mel's sudden death has meant that DCA Officers have had to seek information on projects she was associated with, which have included the maintaining the DCA website and printing our Conservation Audits as well as the normal business expected of a regional Conservation Officer. DCA owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to Karen Ray, of Darfar Potholing Club, who liaised with Mel's relatives to retrieve information from her computers, which has enabled us to begin to sort out registration of DCA websites, etc.

Adam Russell has offered to convene and chair an Underground Conservation Forum Meeting and this has been organised for 11th. November. The agenda will be sent out to the usual attendees early next week. Mel was also keeping a watching brief on the Lathkilldale/Magpie Mine business, although things have gone quiet on this front for the moment.

Wayne is dealing with the DCA and the SSSI Cave Monitoring websites for the moment but is seeking to hand this on.

We need to find someone who can print the 5 DCA Cave Conservation Audits at cost for us - Mel normally printed a few at a time as supplies of each one ran out, giving us just sufficient for sales, so I have 3 or 4 copies of each in hand at present.

I am liaising with the BCA Conservation & Access Officer as I have attended all BCA C&A meetings and now take the Minutes for them.

*Jenny Potts, 23-10-15*

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

I've nothing new to report since the last meeting. Work commitments have kept me over the border and I've made further progress on the jobs list since Axe Hole and Waterfall Hole.

We do have the 4 new belay anchors for Eldon Hole waiting for willing volunteers over at the DCA container. Roy Rogers and co had offered but that was always looking to be a winter job.

That's all to report sadly for now.

Once again, I'm hoping that my meagre availability is not a source of annoyance and should anyone else come out of the ether wishing to take on this role they would be most welcome.

*Pete Knight*

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

Not really a lot to report

Giants area letter - this needs to be checked by DCA members before I send however it's needs a proof first before I submit it.

Ashford Black Marble Mine - Adam Green (Stanley Head OEC) arranged a one time visit to see if access was right for them.

Garden Path - Any update on new information to try and open it up more to BCA members?

*Ewan Cameron*

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

#### **Ashford Black Marble Mine**

The 3 year Licence has been renewed as from the start of this month, though I am still waiting for the paperwork to arrive. My latest inspection report draws attention to evidence of small-scale but persistent work with a pickaxe or similar tool to remove ore of some kind (barytes? fluorite?) from a narrow vein that crosses the 2<sup>nd</sup> Level some half way along. Part of the adjacent wall pack looks to have been shaken by these efforts to get at the ore. Chatsworth inform me it's not something they have authorised and the onus therefore falls on DCA to trace whoever is responsible. Any information would be welcome.

#### **Application Procedure for Garden Path**

The need, as I see it, is to free up the procedure to ensure there are visits here, as Chatsworth expect, without risk of serious damage to the scientific interest of the site. I suggest that for a trial period I handle applications personally and email a DCA permit (a copy of which I have prepared for Council's approval) to applicants for showing to the keyholder in exchange for the key. All applicants would have to satisfy the standard insurance requirements as well as understand and accept that the permit is not issued for purely recreational trips. The procedure to be looked at again by the end of 2016.

## **Hazlebadge Cave**

I have contacted Dan Abrahams for help in approaching the owners regarding the need to fit a new gate and sort out some access. In 2010, apparently, monitoring of the cave (as part of the Bradwell SSSI) was deferred because no one appeared to have a key to get in. That means, by my calculation, the cave has not been entered since 1990! I anticipate some tough negotiating to get cavers back in, but at least a start is being made.

*Peter Mellors, Legal & Insurance Officer*

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

There has been very little activity with the anchor installers over the summer due to the usual lack of availability of those involved in professional instruction, holidays and other personal commitments. However, the need to expedite the projects already on the list is ongoing and the winter months generally provide an opportunity for these to progress. Currently the projects are :-

1. **Rowter** – the new discoveries and also checking the re-belay anchors in the entrance shaft. This a major job and will take considerable resources and probably the top side of 50 anchors.
2. **Speedwell Cavern** – re-bolting in the Assault Course where necessary.
3. **Giants** – the ancient corroded Filthy Five spits need replacement when the issue of passing St. Valentines sump has been resolved. Pull-throughs may be necessary to ensure safety on round trips. Also a check on the traverse anchors to the pitch head of Garlands Pot
4. **Nettle** – installing the two stainless steel Y-hangs already in stock on the route to Derbyshire Hall.
5. **JH Mine** – replacing the anchors on the alternative route down Leviathon.
6. **Eldon Hole** – Replacement of the pull-through anchors on the climb into Millers Chamber. Also a check on the anchors in Damocles Rift. Pull-through system ???
7. **Bateman's House** – Installing pitch head bolts in the level above Bateman's House in Lathkill Dale.
8. **Carlswark** - checking and, if necessary, replacing the anchors on Eyam Dale Shaft.

To provide more cover for these projects and to better distribute the workload of the current installers on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September Jules Barrett and myself trained another three installers, namely Mark Richardson, Chris Haigh and Tom Hughes to augment the team. Also Glen Sankey was re-evaluated. On the 12<sup>th</sup> December it is proposed for Jules and myself to run another course to train a couple of Orpheus member to cover the Dove, Manifold and Lathkill catchments. Also several lapsed members of the team may be involved for re-assessment.

On a technical note there were difficulties with the supply of KMR Res resin and the BCA E&T Committee found a suitable replacement with Fischer FIS V 360S resin which gave similar or better results. The assessment of the new resin was conducted in Yorkshire. Another advantage of this resin is that it is a vinylester resin, which unlike the KMR, contains no styrene and the shelf life is longer.

My thanks go to all those installers who are still committed to helping DCA.

*Bob Dearman – DCA Equipment Officer  
20<sup>th</sup> October 2015*

### **Item 6.7.2 - Notes on Cave Atmosphere Monitoring**

1. **Problems with Carbon Dioxide**\_ No reports at all over this period.
2. **Problems with other gases**\_ No reports since the last meeting.
3. **Gas monitoring**\_
  - 3.1 Readings were taken in Neptune mine on 23 June, showing the air to be very fresh.
  - 3.2 Readings were also taken in Lathkill Head Cave (Upper Entrance) where good readings were recorded as far as the foot of the Waiting Room, but, below this level, oxygen dropped to 19.1%, which probably represents a 1.5% level of CO<sub>2</sub> which isn't unusual for this system in summer, and probably would not be noticed by cavers.
  - 3.3 On a recent trip into the Clayton Level on Ecton Hill, with John Barnatt and Graham Woodrow, DCRO were asked to take readings in a passage where low oxygen was suspected, and the level was around 18.5% (against a surface reading of 20.9%, although nothing was written down). The assumption is that the compensating gas would be CO<sub>2</sub>, although there was a smell associated with the passage which could have indicated the presence of hydrocarbons. A multi-gas detector was used, but none of the gases indicated.
4. **Meter requests**\_ I have received no requests to use the DCA CO<sub>2</sub> meter since the last meeting.
5. **Calibration**\_ DCA's CO<sub>2</sub> meter needs to be recalibrated. This will be done as soon as we (DCRO) get some calibration gas. In the meantime, the meter is still usable - you simply get a warning that calibration is overdue, which you can click to "OK".

*Alan Brentnall*

**Item 6.8 - Training Officer's Report, DCA TRAINING EVENTS 2015/6**  
**Derbyshire Caving Association Caver Workshops**  
**Winter**

**Ropework for Cavers Workshop**  
**Saturday January 9<sup>th</sup> - places available**

This brand new workshop is designed to introduce and improve ropework useful to cavers. We will look at rope selection, care and rigging for basic climbs and rescue work. This is an essential workshop for any cavers wishing to protect themselves and others underground on steep or difficult terrain. £30 per person

**Caving Club Training Officers Workshop** - TBA - Derbyshire - £30 per person

**Surface Navigation Workshop** - Saturday November 28<sup>th</sup> - places available

This workshop is designed to introduce and improve navigation techniques useful to any outdoor enthusiast, especially cavers venturing to those more remote caves. We will look at map interpretation, compass work and micro navigation. This workshop is for anyone wishing to navigate themselves in remote areas. £30 per person

**SRT Introduction workshop** - Sunday **November 14<sup>th</sup>** - places available £30 per person

Sunday **January 10<sup>th</sup>** - places available £30 per person

**SRT Training course** - Saturday & Sunday **January 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>** - places available £100 per person

**SRT Assessment (Module 3)** - Saturday **December 5<sup>th</sup>** - places available £15 per person

**SRT Master class** - Sunday **October 25<sup>th</sup>** places available. £40 per person

Saturday **January 23<sup>rd</sup>** - places available

**Specialist SRT Rigging and Rescue Workshop** - Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup> - places available

Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> - 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. This surface training day will be of an informal nature with emphasis on personal techniques improvement. £40 per person

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

**BCA Cave Leader Training (LC/MLA)**

Level 1 Wednesday & Thursday November 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> – Derbyshire - cave

Level 1 Friday November 20<sup>th</sup> – Derbyshire - mines day

Level 1 Wednesday & Thursday January 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> – Derbyshire - cave

Level 1 Friday January 15<sup>th</sup> – Derbyshire - mines day

Level 2 Wednesday & Thursday December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> – Derbyshire

Level 2 Thursday & Friday February 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> – Derbyshire

**BCA Cave Instructor Training (CIC)**

Monday to Friday February 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 2016

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

Good caving

**Nigel Atkins, DCA. Training officer**

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

So far this year three issues of *The Derbyshire Caver* have been produced, nos 136, 137 and 138, the latter being very much Hamps and Manifold centred in memory of our late Conservation Officer. All issues have run to the full 16 pages that postage costs allow.

The next issue will be Winter 2015, the deadline for submission of articles for this one being 24th December for printing at the start of the New Year. Some articles are already in place and I have the promise of a couple more so I am hopeful that this will be another full issue. However, if any DCA members or others feel constrained to write up something for me, please don't hesitate!

Work has continued on the index of the Newsletter from the first issue in 1962 right up to date but has been slow over the Summer due to other pressing commitments. Things should speed up a bit over the forthcoming Winter.

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

**Item 6.10 - DCA (Temporary) Webmaster Report**

I have had to take temporary charge of the DCA website and the Peak Monitoring Website.

I have managed with the help of David Cooke of BCA to gain access to cpanel, this allowing me to change the super admin passwords for both sites so I am now super admin for the sites. Luckily they were hosted on the BCA Server. The domain for the DCA website is registered with BCA but under Paul Johnson's name so he is changing this to DCA.

DCA Co Min 151024

The issue we have with the monitoring website is that the domain name is registered with a different internet provider under Mel's company so I have attempting to get that changed to DCA in the short term. These are okay until Nov 2016 so prior to that date; we need to get these transferred to BCA Server. This means that they would be hosted within caving circles. This has also taught DCA a lesson that we need to ensure all usernames / passwords are distributed around several officers. An information sheet will be produced.

#### **DCA Website:**

I have changed the news section, archiving news by year and put on a couple of news items. The officers list has been updated and forwarding email addresses updated. The site is in good shape, just needs more news items when we have them and more pictures. I also suggest we put past copies of minutes, information circulars, newsletters etc. online, assuming that they are scanned. This brings me to the next item, any website needs news from its officers / members, rather than the administrator writing it so can we please come up with a system for getting DCA news items written up and updated onto the site.

#### **Peak District Cave Monitoring Website:**

This site works, it was built for a purpose and it still serves that purpose. The only thing that is required in the short term is summaries of the Natural England Conservation Projects undertaken over the years, pictures would be nice. I suggest that we leave this site until we start the UCF meetings again and we can discuss this website.

Note: CNCC are merging the northern monitoring site into their main website.

Does anybody want the job to update the site with news items, calendar etc., as I have too much on and already look after the [www.peakspeedwell.info](http://www.peakspeedwell.info) site. I don't mind keeping an eye on the structure of the site etc. You don't have to be a computer programmer to do it; Mel put a good guide together for updating news items etc.

#### **Peak District Caving Online Access Guide:**

The work on the online access database is ongoing; data is currently being collated by catchment area. Some areas are further on than others. I would say it's 50% complete. As usual, there isn't a rush of volunteers to help. Thanks to Karen Slatcher for picking up the Dove, Rob Thorne is going to pick up the Manifold, Will Whalley is picking up Stoney, Olly King is picking up Alderley Edge, I am picking up Castleton. Adam Russell checked over the Derwent and Lathkill mine sites. It's Bradwell, Wye, Wormhill and Derwent (my volunteer has gone to ground) where I need volunteers. There are some sites in the Lathkill that need picking up as well. I have a list of sites that are outstanding at this meeting, if anybody wants to look at this during this meeting and fill in the blanks, please ask.

In terms of hosting the site, the software for the MCRA (Mendip Cave Registry Archive) website has been made available for other organisations to use. It will also eventually link into UK National Cave Registry. I have got a presentation that was prepared for Hidden Earth to be shown at this meeting. I have communicated at length with its designer and its ideal for the guide. In the short term, it will work for the access guide while in the long term we could potentially use this software to get the Derbyshire Cave Registry online. It will be part of existing website as a subdomain or a subsite, e.g. [registry.thedca.org.uk](http://registry.thedca.org.uk) or [thedca.org.uk/registry](http://thedca.org.uk/registry) so there will be no need for extra hosting charges.

I would like to propose that we use this software for this guide.

**Wayne Sheldon, DCA Hon. Treasurer**  
**19/10/2015**

### **Item 7.1 - Report from BCA Council Meeting**

Draft Minutes of the BCA Meeting of 10th. October are now on the BCA website for you to read. Important points to note are a reduction of £10 in DIM subscriptions for 2016 and the new system coming online to allow to control for yourself the information BCA holds on you and to opt in to receive BCA Newsletters, etc. by email if you wish to.

**Jenny Potts, 23-10-15**