



# DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Open Council Meeting, 28 October 2017, 10am, Monyash Village Hall

## MINUTES

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Officers:</b>	Chairman	Wayne Sheldon (WS)
		Vice-Chairman	Alan Brentnall (AB)
		Secretary / BCA Rep.	Jenny Potts (JP)
		Treasurer / Webmaster	Angus Sawyer (AS)
		Conservation Officer	Christine Wilson (CW)
		Legal & Insurance Officer	Peter Mellors (PM)
		Projects Officer	Pete Knight (PK)
		Equipment Officer	Bob Dearman (BD) (arrived late)
		Cave Registry Secretary	Phil Wolstenholme (PW)
	<b>Clubs:</b>	Eldon P.C. (BD)	
		Orpheus C. C. (JP)	
		T.S.G. (WS, AB, PW), Ann Soulsby	
	<b>Individual Members:</b>	(WS, AB, JP, PM, PK, BD, PW.)	

### 1. Chairman's Welcome:

- 1.1 WS welcomed members. He referred to the deaths of stalwart DCA supporter and Trustee, Boyd Potts; also to past PICA Officer and popular outdoor instructor, Vin Machin.

### 2. Apologies for absence: Establish Quorum.

- 2.1 Apologies received from: Gary Noble (Access Officer), Nigel Atkins (Training Officer), Mike Higgins (NL Editor & Publins. Officer), Karen Slatcher (OCC), Adam Russell (PDMHS), Jim Borrington (Masson C.G.), Kev West (Ind.)
- 2.2 Meeting was quorate with 8 Officers present.

### 3. To Approve Minutes of the previous Council Meeting: (24 June 2017, previously circulated).

- 3.1 Amendments: Add Elaine Hill to list of apologies.
- 3.2 **That, with the amendment, the Minutes of the Council Meeting, 24 June 2017, be approved.**  
Prop, PM, Sec. PW, **Agreed unanimously.**

### 4. Matters Arising Therefrom: (Note that some of these issues may be dealt with in Officers' Reports.)

- 4.1 001 Odin Mine, progress on re-opening. **AR** (See item 6.4)
- 4.2 002 New multiple use meter required to test for gases. **AB** (See Item 6.8.b)
- 4.3 004 Open new Lloyds bank account. **AS** (See item 6.3)
- 4.4 005 UCF Report on open section of DCA website, Minutes on Officers' section. **AS, JP**. (See item 6.3)
- 4.5 009 Review DCA Fixed Aids Policy. **BD, JP**. Ongoing.
- 4.6 010 Manifold bolts required. MH to enquire of Peter Ray. **MH, PR**. List being produced. (See item 6.8.a)
- 4.6 011 Suicide Cave problems: suggested notice board. Reply from N. T. awaited. **CW, PK**. (See items 6.4 & 6.7)
- 4.7 012 Identify volunteers to deal with SSSI monitoring. **CW**. (See item 6.4)
- 4.8 015 Eldon Hole ground anchors needed. BD is contacting Dan Hibberts. **BD**. (See item 6.8.a)
- 4.9 017 Hazelbadge Cave, progress on Access. Action from N.E. awaited. **PM, GN**.  
PM does not consider this part of his remit. CW states owner is not replying to NE queries. Deadlock at present. May be a little hope due to the new ownership of Bradwell Parish Piece, which is adjoining land. Place matter on hold for the present and take off the agenda.
- 4.10 018 Holme Bank. Re-open Entrance no 1. PM to draft statement on access to go on DCA website. **PM, GN, AS**. (See item 6.6)
- 4.11 019 Christmas Pot & Snelslow Swallet access. **PM, GN, CW**.  
No progress, not really part of PM's remit. Suggested it is part of Access Officer's remit. Suggested place on hold for the moment as owner does not reply to approaches by DCA.
- 4.12 020 New batteries needed for angle grinder. **BD**.  
Is this DCA property or BCA property? Check with BD. (See later item 6.a.2)
- 4.13 022 Items for use with ASS need checking for Asset Register. **JP, BP, AS**. Ongoing.  
ASS (Artificial Speleological System) is stored in the container at present. Only Cliffhanger used it and this has now ceased, NT no longer use it or store it for us. Check if it is still needed; it is not in the way but if it was dismantled the materials could be used in DCA projects. **ACTION: JP, AS, PK**
- 4.14 023 Check replacement of materials used for gate on Bateman's Adit. **BD, CW**.  
Need to check with BD. Materials came from DCA stock and PK will make list of materials used and valuation.

- 4.15 024 Update Devonshire topo. with new bolts and upload to website. **NA, AS.**  
Kirkland Shaft is unsuitable for bolts but is best rigged from a scaffold bar across the top - take your own scaffold bar.  
It is a 13.5 m shaft which is not vertical; the lid, which can be lifted off completely, must be replaced after each visit.  
PK will draw a new topo. **ACTION: PK**
- 4.16 025 Investigate volunteer contribution charge. **PK, AS, CW.** (See item 6.4 & 6.7 and later item 9.1.)
- 4.17 026 Investigate ways of cutting Newsletter costs while maintaining standard. **MH, JP, AS.** (See item 6.10)

## 5. Election of New Members

Individual Member: **Keith Dawson.** Prop. J.Potts. **Agreed.**

## 6. Officers' Reports

### 6.1 Chairman (Written Report tabled.)

#### 6.1.a **PK queries scanning of printed surveys held by BCL.**

JP says it is possible to get this done commercially and there may be a caver who could help with this. Clive Westlake was looking at Eldon surveys in the collection left by John Beck for the British Caving Library (BCL) but JP explained there was a need for a volunteer to go through all JB's surveys and catalogue them according to the BCL standards. PW has a database of JB's surveys but it is not on a standard database and PW thinks others may also have been given the software and list by JB. He would liaise with JP. **ACTION: JP, PW**

#### 6.1.b **PW asked if entrance photos are ready to be loaded onto the DCA website.**

Some areas have lots of photos already and more are coming in; KS has produced many for the Dove area already. DCA should have Mel's Manifold photos if we can extract them from the Conservation Audit. **ACTION: PW, AS, WS**

#### 6.1.c **That the Chairman's Report be approved.** Prop, P.Knight, Sec. P.Mellors, **Agreed unanimously.**

### 6.2 Secretary / BCA Rep. (Written Report tabled.)

6.2.a JP has not had a chance to write out a "job spec." for Secretary but effectively this is in her report. She noted extra jobs being done which are not part of basic Secretary's job and which ought now to be separated: in particular printing and circulation of Newsletters, dealing with publication sales (which JP is willing to continue to do), and other issues..

#### 6.2.b **That the Secretary's Report be approved.** Prop, C.Wilson, Sec. P.Mellors, **Agreed unanimously.**

### 6.3 Treasurer / Webmaster (Written Report tabled.)

6.3.a Noted DCA needs to inform those payees who are regularly sent invoices in advance of their 1st. invoice re. changed DCA account now at Lloyds. JP will inform AS of those who pay for CoPD and Derbyshire Caver. Note BCA and NE also pay by BACS.

**ACTION: AS, JP**

6.3.b Agreed to deal with Webmaster report as part of Cave Registry section, 6.11.

#### 6.3.c **That the Treasurer's Report be approved.** Prop, A.Brentnall, Sec. P.Wolstenholme, **Agreed unanimously.**

### 6.4 Conservation Officer (Written Report tabled.)

6.4.a JP thanked CW for very comprehensive report.

6.4.b AS noted that SSSI monitoring forms returned need to be notified to him so that website records can be kept up to date. Suggested CW could do this updating herself. **ACTION: CW, AS**

#### 6.4.c **Odin Mine:**

Odin Mine is to be subject of discussion between CW, PK, etc. with NT to agree on routes to be used to minimise risks for visitors. Les Riley will inspect site as a Mines Inspector with a view to agreeing Club "Wardens" who would be allowed to take in groups using the agreed routes. There may also be provision for expert mine explorers, who are not actually Mines Inspectors, to be approved to work off the agreed "group routes". Noted that this is a great improvement on the existing complete ban on all access and there may be a chance to "tweak" the system in the future so that it does not all depend on Les Riley's approval of the "Wardens". PK suggested we need to agree the initial proposal and see how it works. Initially Wardens to be approved by DCA and our access system needs to be able to produce a list of Wardens to be made available. Not sure if there would ever be a need to gate Odin Mine as NT seems to prefer warning notices and fences. Noted the tree, which had been used as the belay point for the first pitch, has now been removed. A new topo. will need to be done at some time. Timescale is likely to be sometime next year but this depends on discussions between parties and also when Les Riley can do an inspection. JP notes that there is a working system of "Wardens" operating in S Wales re. DyO and OFD I. Also works in Derbyshire with Water Icicle, using cascade system to appoint more Wardens. **ACTION: CW, GN, PW**

6.4.d PM queried access for **Kirkland Shaft** - noted that there is no intention of placing a locked gate on it.

6.4.e PW queried why EA are not able to find an "owner" for **Moss Rake** as it appears to be widely known locally who the owner is. JP suggested the person who claims to be the owner may not, in fact, be the legal owner.

#### 6.4.f **Suicide Cave Actions:**

Suicide Cave now has access limited by means of chains and warning notices to discourage general public from entering the danger zone. It is not intended to limit access to cavers. NT accept that only people likely to be cavers will go past the chains. PK has discussed the situation with BD and agreed we don't want to pin boulders because

**Contd.>>**

<< **Contd.**

this would involve an ongoing professional inspection requirement so suggests better to just remove the existing P-bolts, by angle grinding them off as the best conservation measure. Agreed all P-bolts will be removed and BD will be informed when this has been done. Noted that, apart from the shaft with the loose boulders, this was a useful instructed caving site so PK suggested that some existing spits could be replaced by BP-anchors. If members requested so.

6.4.g **That the Conservation Officer's Report be approved.** Prop, P.Mellors, Sec. P.Knight. **Agreed unanimously**

**6.5 Access Officer** (*Apologies sent. Verbal report.*)

6.5.a GN had reported to JP that there were no changes to the access agreements he was dealing with.

6.5.b PK suggested that the Access Officer might need to be involved with access to Odin Mine and possibly Longcliffe Mine in the future because both are on NT property. Noted that Longcliffe has never been publicised as being "dangerous" and therefore NT were treating access to it differently to Odin Mine. Suggest that a warning on the entrance to a site of a particular danger might be better than saying "this is dangerous" on a public website.

**6.6 Legal & Insurance Officer** (*Written Report tabled.*)**6.6.a PK queried situation as regards ownership of Holme Bank and Holme Hall Mines.**

Chatsworth do not own Holme Hall Mine - noted that the boundaries between Holme Hall and Holme Bank are underground. Chatsworth does own the land in front of the entrances so the Holme Hall owner does not have the right to prevent parking on this land. The entrance next to Joe Oldfield's works, the Smithy Entrance, leads directly into Holme Hall Mine underground. PM notes that JO is going to lock the Fan Entrance to Holme Bank but will put a key inside the mine so it can be used as an emergency exit. Note that Holme Bank mine can be accessed via the locked Top Quarry Entrance, which has a combination lock and the code is available.

PM's 3rd. letter had reminded the HH owner of the use of the 1st. entrance for disabled people to have an underground experience - this was the only site available in the Peak District. No reply had been received to PM's letter.

**6.6.b Trustee query.**

JP suggested that a Trustee needs to be a "solid citizen" who will hold the post for some time. Various names were suggested. Perhaps PM or WS could approach suitable people. JP can notes that the AGM should appoint the Trustee and it will be an item on the Agenda.

**6.6.c That the Legal & Insurance Officer's Report be approved.**

Prop, A.Brentnall, Sec. P.Wolstenholme, **Agreed unanimously**

**6.7 Projects Officer** (*Written Report tabled.*)

6.7.a Volunteer Contribution charge to be dealt with under AOB.

**BD arrived at this point: 12.25pm.**

6.7.b Spit anchors in Giants have now stripped their threads. PK suggests that the 2 damaged spits in the Crabwalk be replaced with BP anchors. BD is happy with this. **ACTION: BD, PK**

**6.7.c Waterfall Pitch in Knotlow.**

PK suggests possibly installing some stainless steel "steps" to aid caver access across the traverse because this is a popular training venue and has been the site of a recent DCRO incident. The meeting did not agree to this.

**6.7.d Stub Scrin Shaft to be capped properly.**

DCA has materials to do the job so all agreed this was a good idea. The Landowner at Eyam Dale House would be happy for this to be done although it is not certain whether the shaft is actually on his land, though it is close. AS can access Land Registry data and check. Noted it is part of the SSSI. **ACTION: AS, PK**

6.7.e CW suggests we should not have the name of small cave in Winnatts Pass referring to Blue John, suggested it be referred to by another name and NT will decide on a name for reference purposes to go in Cave Registry. (JP would amend reference in PK's report.)

6.7.x **That the Projects Officer's Report be approved.** Prop, C.Wilson, Sec. P.Wolstenholme. **Agreed unanimously**

**6.8.a Equipment Officer** (*Written Report tabled.*)**6.8.a.1 Bolting in J.H. etc.:**

BD reported that Henry Rockcliffe is hoping to go back into J.H to complete the job of re-bolting the Leviathan area tomorrow, if he gets enough volunteers, and will also be looking at other bolts in J.H. PK suggested we need to look at list of installers as there seems to be a problem of availability on occasions and it would be useful to have a group of people ready to work at specific sites, e.g. Longcliffe when this is ready. BD had accepted PK and PW to train as new anchor installers. **ACTION: BD, PK**

**6.8.a.2 Action 020, Angle Grinder batteries:**

BD said the batteries which came with the DCA machine are rubbish. Suggested it needs new batteries so BD was authorised to buy suitable new batteries for it so that it can be made available for use on projects. CW notes that we should be able to use money from EN for this and we could claim for items bought in lieu of claiming expenses for Bateman's Shaft. **ACTION: PK, BD, CW**

6.8.a.3 **That the Equipment Officer's Report be approved.** Prop, P.Knight, Sec. C.Wilson. **Agreed unanimously.**

**6.8.b DCA Cave Atmosphere Monitoring report. (Written Report tabled.)**

**6.8.b.1 Ref. point 4. BM's report on Access Controlling Bodies and CO<sub>2</sub>.**

JP explained what DCA will be doing to draw attention to this: website, access notes and notices at shaft tops. CW reported that John Gunn had suggested that areas likely to have high radon concentration tend to coincide with high CO<sub>2</sub> areas and there should be warnings about this as well. Noted that DCA recordings of CO<sub>2</sub> levels go back a long time so provide evidence of correlation between atmospheric conditions and high CO<sub>2</sub>/radon levels. AB noted also that high CO<sub>2</sub> will almost certainly be linked to low Oxygen levels, which is just as dangerous, and Oxygen meters are cheaper than CO<sub>2</sub> monitors, so this is easy to check.

**6.8.b.2 Ref. point 3. Gas Monitors:**

New gas monitors being negotiated on special price for DCRO will be 5-gas monitors. Noted the discounted price is £1,075 (full price is £1,678). 5-gas monitors need to be calibrated and DCRO is also buying the calibration equipment. 2-year life monitors for either Oxygen or H<sub>2</sub>S are only £108 but can't be re-calibrated and have to be thrown away after 2 years. PK notes that instructors from PICA regularly monitor radon levels but could make use of cheaper gas monitors. AB has been using DCRO's monitors because DCA's monitor is unserviceable but would recommend DCA buying the 5-gas monitor and DCA can then use DCRO's calibration kit. CW suggested buying a cheaper Oxygen meter, which could be lent out and any adverse conditions reported could then be checked. PK noted that this could be used by DCA people working on projects, which would cover the safeguarding issue.

***That DCA buys a 5-gas monitor, to held by AB or his nominee.***

Prop. C.Wilson, Sec. P.Knight. ***Approved nem con.***

AB noted the unexpected problem of CO (carbon monoxide) in Cow Shaft, where DCRO personnel might have descended the shaft and encountered it.

***That DCA buys an Oxygen monitor for use by working parties acting on behalf of DCA.***

Prop. C.Wilson, Sec. P.Knight. ***Approved unanimously.***

**PM left at 2.05pm**

**6.8.b.3 *That the Cave Atmosphere Monitoring Report be approved.***

Prop, A.Sawyer, Sec. J.Potts, ***Agreed unanimously.***

**6.9 Training Officer (Apologies sent. Written Report tabled.)**

6.9.a Noted DCA members and cavers from other areas are keen to attend these events organised by DCA's Training Officer.

6.9.b ***That the Training Officer's Report be approved.*** Prop, J.Potts, Sec. P.Knight ***Agreed unanimously.***

**6.10 Newsletter Editor / Publications Officer (Apologies sent, Written Report tabled.)**

6.10.a JP said N/L 146 has been sent for printing and she hoped to send it out on Monday.

6.10.b JP noted MH is not present and his apologies had been received.

6.10.c JP suggested that there should be no charge for sending a printed copy to clubs with libraries who wished to have it or to public libraries. CW suggested that some shops selling caving gear might be willing to take DCA N/L for sale as a service to cavers now that HnH has closed. An advantage of the online pdf is that it would be in full colour, whereas the printed copies would still be Colour cover and B/W inside.

JP suggests that libraries which require a printed copy should still be able to receive one f.o.c. Otherwise it should be freely available on the DCA website but individual members could subscribe if they want a printed copy. CW suggests that more effort should be made to sell through shops.

After discussion it was proposed:

***1. That the next DCA newsletter, No. 147, will be the last to be produced solely as a printed copy and sent to all members. Thereafter, members wishing to receive a printed copy will be asked to subscribe.***

***2. Printed copies will be made available to retailers who wish to sell them under the same sale-or-return system as at present.***

***3. Electronic copies will be in full colour. (Printed copies will be BW inside and full colour covers). Electronic copies will on the website for free downloading and members will be advised when each issue goes online.***

Prop. J.Potts, Sec. B.Dearman. ***Agreed unanimously.***

JP will contact DCA member clubs to ask who wishes to receive a Library copy, which will be provided f.o.c. CW / PK will undertake approaching retailers. ***ACTION: JP, CW, PK***

6.10.d ***That the Newsletter Editor / Publications Officer's Report be approved.***

Prop, PK Sec. PW, ***Agreed unanimously.***

**6.11 Cave Registry Secretary (Written Report tabled.)**

6.11.a WS asked about the confidentiality feature, AS confirms this can be turned on or off as required.

6.11.b PW noted that the shafts above Winnats were to be investigated.

6.11.c ***That the Cave Registry Secretary's Report be approved.***

Prop, J.Potts, Sec. C.Wilson, ***Agreed unanimously.***

## 6.12 Website Report

6.12.a **That the Webmaster's Report be approved.** Prop. A.Brentnall, Sec. P.Knight. , **Agreed unanimously.**

## 7.1 BCA Matters (Verbal report by DCA's rep. JP)

7.1 Report from BCA Council Meeting, Sat. 7 October 2017. (Draft minutes will be on the BCA website)

### 7.1.a Personnel:

BCA has a new Administrative Assistant. Nick Williams is acting as Sec. temporarily but a nominee is sought urgently. Andy Eavis has said he will stand down as Chairman next June.

### 7.1.b Training:

BCA Council agreed to a split between recreational caver training and professional caver training, Nigel Atkins was co-opted as BCA Training Officer dealing recreational caver training. There is still uncertainty about how the professional system is to be organised via the new Qualifications Management Committee.

### 7.1.c BCA's CRoW ballot

The ballot resulted in well over 80% of those responding in favour of going ahead to confirm that access to caves in open country is covered by the CRoW legislation. (The ballot achieved a 50% return, details will be in the BCA Minutes.) BCA is now moving forward to try to get this view approved by Defra, whose officials still insist that the legislation refers only to descent of shafts or entry into large cave entrances where participants do not go out of daylight. It is likely to require direction from politicians to civil servants to clarify the issue and this is where BCA is now putting its efforts.

## 8. Date & Venue for next Council Meeting

8.1 DCA AGM is booked for Sat. 24 Feb. 2018, 10am, Monyash Village Hall and will be followed by a brief Council Meeting.

## 9. Any Other Business

### 9.1 Volunteer Contribution charge.

Volunteers using their own personal kit should be paid in kind, i.e. damaged or worn out kit resulting from the task can be replaced, arrangements need to be put in place to enable them to claim for it. DCA needs to arrange for volunteer labour to be paid at NE's standard daily rate, if necessary a group rate, and this could be used to pay for kit replacement. Need volunteers to record no. of hours worked on each project. Paperwork will be required to make this work but we understand how it is to operate in principle. Noted that volunteers should not be out of pocket for doing work on behalf of DCA. CW & PK will work out the details and liaise with AS as to paperwork required. **ACTION: CW, PK, AS**

### 9.3 Sale of Peak/Speedwell surveys, etc.

Sale of Peak/Speedwell surveys and other surveys which were printed by JB in the past. JP noted that this material is available from BCL and can be copied and will be made available to cavers at cost, any extra money accrued will go to DCA. JP needs volunteers to assist with cataloguing which surveys are available.

### 9.3 Container keys.

JP to check on spare Container keys she believes she has. JP to ensure her set is passed to CW.

### 9.4 PICA

PK notes PICA needs a new Secretary.

### 9.5 Tools for Project Work.

PK queries whether it is worth DCA investing in some tools. BD noted that there are now some spare 18mm drill bits going for free after change in bolting process. Agreed this is a sensible suggestion and PK and BD would liaise. **ACTION: BD, PK**

### 9.6. Remaining copies of Caves of The Peak District

BD asks about selling remaining copies of CoPD now that the primary route via Hitch 'n' Hike has gone. Money is tied up in copies of CoPD, although all the initial printing costs have now been covered, so DCA should look at the best way of selling the remainder. This would be discussed at a future Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 3.30pm.

**J.E.Potts, Recorder**

### Appended to these minutes and forming part of them are the documents listed below:

- Item 6.1 - Chairman's Report
- Item 6.2 - Secretary's Report
- Item 6.3 - DCA Treasurer's & DCA Webmaster's Report 28th October
- Item 6.4 - Conservation Officer's Report October 2017
- Item 6.6 - Legal & Insurance Officer's Report
- Item 6.7 - Project Officer's Report
- Item 6.8.a - Equipment Officer's Report
- Item 6.8.b - DCA Cave Atmosphere Monitoring Report
- Item 6.9 - DCA Training Officer's Report
- Item 6.10 - Newsletter Editor/Publications Officer's Report
- Item 6.11 - Cave Registry Secretary's report
- Item 6.3 - DCA Profit & Loss For Period Covering 01/01/2017 to 24/10/2017

Draft

## Officers' Reports for DCA Council Meeting 28th. October 2017

### Item 6.1 - Chairman's Report

It came as shock for many people when it was reported that Boyd Potts had died. Boyd was a trustee of DCA for many years, he had done a lot for Derbyshire Caving in terms of caving, access, conservation, as well as organising the stands / displays on behalf of DCA for the Cliffhanger event. He was the stalwart of the Orpheus Caving Club where he has been the chairman, heavily involved in the club. Outside of Derbyshire, Boyd was also involved in national caving, with the British caving Association. On a personal note, he has been very helpful to me while I have been involved with DCA, and will be greatly missed.

Jenny announced her intention to stand down as secretary earlier in the year so I have contacted a number of clubs, trying to find a replacement secretary, without any luck to date but there is a fair few clubs still to contact.

The cave registry data and online access guide data has finally been merged together, and this is now online. This allowing Phil to now update it.

DCA has now taken on the Peak District Caving website, that we have inherited from Shaun Puckering, following the closure of Hitch N Hike. The site was going to be lost so I stepped in, discussed it with Shaun, agreed with Jenny, Angus and Phil for the DCA to take on the running of the resource and expand this site.

New resources on the site are as follows:

- Online Cave Registry, access guide and rigging topo's will be moved from the DCA site to this new site
- Online Surveys - The BCA library were donated a large stash of surveys from the estate of the late John Beck. These are currently being sorted for storage, one of the long-term aims is to scan these and put them online, as long as copyright is sorted out etc. The Eldon Pothole Club and Technical Speleological Group have allowed DCA to put some of their main surveys online.
- Online Bibliography – each page will have bibliography / references, and this will be expanded on.
- Online Descriptions - Shaun developed some micro guides that he wrote for several caves, these are retained and will be updated. New guides will be developed for other sites.
- Photographs – an entrance picture for each site will be incorporated initially then other pictures will be added.

Angus has been busy building this new site. I have been pulling together content for the site, this being the bibliography entries, surveys and working on updating the micro guide cave descriptions. Other cavers and DCA officers have been providing photographs following an appeal by email and on UK Caving.

*Wayne Sheldon, DCA Chairman*

### Item 6.2 - Secretary's Report

#### Communications

Since the Council meeting in June I have sent out two information circulars to members: 2017/4 (April-August 2017), and 2017/5 (August-October 2017). These cover mainly access and conservation issues and include the various goings on at Holme Bank, the missing Knotlow nuts, Eldon Hole ground anchors and fixed rigging, Suicide Cave, Devonshire Shafts, J.H. bolt problems, CO<sub>2</sub> in Peak District caves, etc. I also recently sent out Nigel Atkins' programme of Caver Training Events for 2017-18. All these items, plus Minutes and Agendas, are sent by email where possible to our 91 members and the 6 other regular contacts we have but we still need to post 14 copies each time.

Since June I have also sent out 7 other specific circulars to members on issues of particular interest re. access, etc. I have continued to post on UKcaving.com on behalf of DCA where I felt it worth while make some issues known more widely than just among DCA members. Other DCA Officers have also made use of UKcaving.com.

My thanks to all the officers and members who regularly supply information to me as the "hub" of the system so it can usefully be passed on.

The basic, and major, part of the Secretary's job is dealing with the organisation of DCA AGMs and Council Meetings, including acting as recorder, collecting and collating Officers' reports, circulating Minutes and Agendas (which requires easy access to copying/duplicating since not everything is sent out by email), and also booking and organising payment to Monyash Village Hall. It is the Secretary's responsibility to maintain the various address lists, including email addresses, for members, officers and subscribers to the Newsletter so that I can print labels for posting and also email information to members.

#### Publications Sales

Since the beginning of this year we have sold 35 copies of **Caves of the Peak District**, all but 3 at trade price to shops/retailers, plus one complimentary copy given out. (We have a current stock of 670 remaining for sale out of 2000 originally printed.) With the closure of Hitch 'n' Hike our major sales outlet has now gone - they have sold a total of 452 copies (34% of the total sales), for us since it was first published - although we still have some other retailers who sell them for us. I have also sold 6 of DCA's **Cave Conservation Audits** as postal sales this year and now need to consider printing one or two more for sale - I have the facilities to do this at cost.

Our major sales outlet for the **Derbyshire Caver** has also gone: HnH regularly sold 10 copies of each issue; henceforth likely sales to the general caving public are likely to be around 10 altogether of each issue via just 2 outlets. Issued free to members, this is costing us around £1,000 per annum to print and post around 120 copies to members, contacts and the 12 subscribers we have - and we no longer get a grant from BCA towards these costs. Mike Higgins has suggested various ways around the problem. In my view, the DCA Newsletter is unique among regional councils and is always well worth reading under Mike's editorship and we would like to keep it going.

As I said in my report to the June meeting: *“Strictly speaking, publications sales are not part of the Secretary’s “job spec.” but I have been doing it for many years. I have also organised all the printing and posting of Newsletters - maybe, if we decide we still want at least some printed copies, it is time for someone to take on the organisation of printing and sale of Newsletters as a specific task?”*

Note that I am happy to continue to deal with sales of Caves of the Peak District as we almost always use “cover post” to get them to retailers and they know to order from me and am willing to continue to deal with sales and production of the DCA Conservation audits.

**Jenny Potts,**  
**27 October 2017**

### **Item 6.3 - DCA Treasurer’s & DCA Webmaster’s Report 28th October**

The current account balances and income and expenditure to date have been submitted with this report. Additional expense since June has included access work carried out by Pete Knight and volunteers, and the installation of new anchors for Eldon Hole by Dan Hibberts. There are outstanding expenses for more project work. We have received £63 from the landowner for materials for capping shafts associated with Devonshire Cavern which is not yet banked and I am currently preparing an invoice for work agreed with Natural England as arranged by Christine Wilson and Pete Knight.

#### **Derbyshire Caving Association Account Summary, 25/10/2017**

Account title	Balance
Current Assets	£19,099.56
Lloyds Current Account	£ 9,840.00
RBS Current Account	£ 1.00
RBS Deposit Account	£ 1.01
Unity Trust Current Account	£ 350.71
Unity Trust Deposit Account	£ 8,906.84

#### **Action 004**

The new Lloyds account is operational, with myself, Wayne Sheldon and Jenny Potts as signatories. We now need to arrange communication to members and publication resellers paying into the Unity Trust account and arrange closure of these accounts.

#### **Action 022**

No progress

#### **DCA Webmaster Report**

***thedca.org.uk***

The DCA web site has had few changes other than regular reports, news items and occasional software upgrades.

#### **Cave Registry**

The Cave Registry has been updated to include information from Caves of the Peak District including cave descriptions. This is not publicly visible at this time. The database has been extended to include references in a structured format, these will be able to be seen using the new website described below. The Grade field has been populated where the grade is given in the original text description.

#### **PeakDistrictCaving.info**

Following the closure of Hitch ‘n’ Hike, we have been developing a replacement for peakdistrictcaving.info. The cave registry will be moved to this site and combined with revised ‘microguides’, surveys, access maps, DCA rigging guides and cave entrance photographs. The domain name was due to expire earlier this month, however Shaun Pickering has renewed this prior to transfer of ownership. Assistance will be required to write content for this site, including area introductions and also to provide entrance photographs.

#### **Action 005**

A member’s documents page has been set up and ‘Member’s Login’ now appears on the site. It is now ready for users.

**Angus Sawyer**

**Note that the Profit & Loss Account For Period Covering 01/01/2017 to 24/10/2017 is at the end of the Reports for 28/10/2017.**

### **Item 6.4 - Conservation Officer’s Report October 2017**

UCF (Underground Conservation Forum) Summary Report of meetings in April & October 2017

#### **Funding**

Dan Abrahams from Natural England managed to secure £3000 for DCA conservation project work this year. Claims made by the DCA to NE for project work, unlike last year, take into account the cost of materials but also labour. The labour cost is currently based on a ‘working day’ rate of £180/day for a working party averaging 4 or so. Dan knows this figure needs updating for next year’s claims and needs to be based on a volunteer equivalent rate that NE use for HLF funded projects. The CNCC currently use a person/day/5 hour day system.

The DCA’s claim this year will exceed the amount NE can give us and to date it totals £4526: Equipment costs amount to £566 and labour £3960 and covers the work done on/in 5 cave/mine systems.

Since the UCF in April DCA have continued to foster very good relations with landowners and forged new ones. This is a positive outcome for both access and conservation. Recent projects with various landowners have helped achieve this.

## **(not minuted)SSSI Monitoring**

Monitoring forms are being successfully downloaded from the website and completed forms are trickling in. Monitoring will probably continue into 2018. Many thanks to clubs and individuals that are doing this!

## **Work in the Castleton area**

During this year National Trust representatives have caved with us in two of three systems on their land and in the most recently discovered system, they also brought their archaeologist. The NT have witnessed conservation work, our working practices and efforts to make holes secure for the general public on their land. This close working relationship has built up the NT's trust in the DCA and cavers which has no doubt helped us have continued access to existing caves but furthermore the NT have recently signalled a wish to support cavers with access to newly discovered caves and mines too. Concluding this success story is that the Odin mine access issue may finally be resolved via an agreement between NT's health and safety team and DCA to adopt a club leader system. The NT will rely on the judgement of the caving world to nominate suitably experienced leaders to assess the hazards and reduce the risk to those being led into this system. This is work in progress and so the DCA, in the meantime, asks cavers to refrain from entering Odin until the NT can give the official go ahead for this access arrangement to proceed. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Much of the work in forging a very good working relationship with the National Trust is attributed to Phil Wolstenholme who has communicated with them over the last 3 years over the Longcliffe project, but this good relationship is also attributed to NT's open, pragmatic and helpful attitude: Many thanks to both of them for this!

Project work done at the Longcliffe system was and continues to be coordinated by Phil with Pete Knight helping with lid work and assistance from many other volunteers, mostly from TSG. A 'Cave Conservation Audit/Plan' will be drawn up for this system in the future.

## **Suicide, Winnats (Action point 011 DCA 22-10-16).**

A metal embossed interpretation sign for Suicide cave in Winnats Pass, worded by DCA to deter littering, was installed at the entrance on 26th Oct. The National Trust apologized for the delay in its fabrication.

In early October Pete Knight found rock instability at the head of the Far pitch /3rd pitch in Suicide and owing to the ease of accessibility of this cave to the general public, it was felt as a necessity, to warn the public about this. Permission from both National Trust and Natural England was granted for Pete and myself to place 3 chains and warning sign attached, across the narrow gap that leads up to the first pitch. This work was completed on the 20th Oct. The NT are happy with what has been done and we hope that it is all that is required. The National Trust have entrusted the DCA to do what ever is necessary to help them safeguard the public from harm. The situation to date has been posted by Pete and myself on various caving media sites.

## **P8 clean up:**

Since late September SUSS volunteers coordinated by Jack Dewison have been removing old digging kit from Ben's dig. The DCA are funding a skip for this and extra volunteers if they are needed. Many thanks to SUSS for doing this!

## **(Not minuted)**

Pindale off roading issues onto the Scheduled Monument & SSSI are continually being addressed and monitored via a three pronged approach from Historic England & PDMHS, Natural England and Peak District National Park Authority.

## **(Not minuted)**

Successful digging continues at Bull Pot and Eldon Hole. Mark Wright from Buttered Badgers featured at Eldon Hole on Channel 4's Britain's Ancient Tracks.

## **Work in the Stoney Middleton area**

Since clearing the path to Eyam Dale House Cave at the end of last year, Pete has continued to maintain good relations with the new owners at EDH. The owner is pleased with the current access arrangement and as a consequence of this successful relationship has now given Pete permission to make the Stub Scrin shaft safe. This is a project that Pete gained permission from NE and the last owners, to work on 10 years ago. He now just needs consent to work from NE again, to get this project underway. Many thanks Pete for your PR skills!

## **Lathkill Area**

**Mandale Mine:** In July Natural England reported Mandale mine's aqueduct level adit entrance was constantly being left unbolted. They did not believe the perpetrator was a caver but recognised something needed to be done urgently to stop Joe Public getting in. A Combi lock was installed in August and the code for this can be gained via the DCA Access Officer.

**'Vixen Shaft':** In March 2016 'Vixen Shaft', an opened/collapsed shaft top, was discovered by Natural England reserve staff in Lathkill Dale. It is believed to be a short trial within a natural rift and may be dated between 1878 and 1898. On 22 June 2017 the hole was made safe to the passing general public by a team of volunteers made up of professional cavers, club cavers and PDMHS members. Materials, a cement mixer and an 1000l ibc (water bowser) were supplied by NE reserve staff. It has not yet been surveyed or bolted for suitable rigging and remains locked. Access will eventually be granted on request for the key but DCA wishes to survey it and bolt it before this is done.

## **Bradwell area**

Bradwell Parish Council Quarry piece sale: This site is a SSSI and contains Bradwell Parish Cave. The new owner is finalising the purchase and when confirmed details will be made accessible on the cave registry.

**Moss rake quarry waste and potential pollution in Bradwell cave systems:** There is concern with this as there is 'known to be fast flow through of drainage from this site to Brookside Sough/Co-op Level in Bradwell, downstream of Bagshawe'. The Environment Agency obtained a warrant to enter the site and investigations are ongoing; they are awaiting analytical results. EA are working closely with the PDNPA who are leading on addressing issues relating to the ownership of the site, and materials with a view to securing removal of materials where necessary. Ownership is, as yet, unknown. The Environment Agency is not aware of any specific pollution in Bradwell to date but any evidence of pollution impacts at this or any other site can be reported to EA via their Incident hotline 0800 807060, which is available 24/7.

## **Matlock and Masson Hill**

**Devonshire mine:** Another land owner cum caver relationship success story. On 14th April work to cap Kirkland shaft with a lid, not requiring a lock, was finished. It was organised by Phil Lilley and the work done by a mix of caving folk: Derbyshire Scout Caving Team, local club cavers and professional cavers. The new land owner is very pleased and thankful for the work done. Many thanks to Pete Knight for getting the ball rolling on this job and another great PR effort.

**Holmebank Chert mine:** PDMHS and Masson CG recently organised a joint clean up operation removing graffiti in Holmebank Chert mine. It is felt that the current and unfortunate access situation with this system is creating easier access for the general public and hence the greater potential for vandalism to occur.

**Masson Cavern:** PICA reported that the use of Masson by instructor led groups is working fine. However, spray waymarking still remains an issue.

### **Derbyshire and Staffordshire Bat group (Steve Roe/Jess Eades)**

An 'Autumn Swarming' bat conference was held at the start of September. They had 100+ bat surveyors spread between the Via Gellia, Jug holes and Masson quarry catching around 350 bats for an evening! Off the back of the conference Jess Eades did a lecture at Hidden earth on Derbyshire bat swarming, about what they knew before the conference and what they learnt after the night's field work.

Mike Higgins has asked Jess to write an article about the night's surveying for "Derbyshire caver" and Steve and Jess are going to work up a paper for "Cave and Karst Science".

### **Applying for Direction under Section 26 restrictions on caves in CRoW access areas.**

As a consequence of BCA's support for caves to be included for open access under the CroW legislation, it is recognised that access to certain special sites will need to continue to be restricted and this can be done by means of a 'Section 26' agreement with EN and the landowner. It was felt necessary by DCA to ask for sites, which are currently affected and especially those currently closed to access by means of a key, to be identified.

*Christine Wilson (Conservation Officer) Oct 2017*

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

### **Holme Chert Mine**

The Lower entrance remains locked and parking outside it discouraged, though I've heard of no further confrontations between cavers and the owner of Holme Hall. Meanwhile I have written a third time to try and get the owner to engage in discussions with us, but again without success. My belief is he feels his line of least liability is to keep the entrance locked and barred to all and to regard cavers and others entering the Holme Hall Mine via alternative routes as trespassers. In the interests of preventing unauthorised access via these routes, Joe Oldfield has put an inside bolt on the steel door to Fan entrance and removed the ladder up to it, while DCA has replaced a missing combination lock on the Top Quarry entrance.

### **Carbon Dioxide Hazard**

I was one of the people with input into Bob Mehew's BCA paper advising Access Control Bodies to warn their visitors where accumulations of the gas might be a problem underground. I agreed with him that failure to post warnings could be construed as negligence in the event of an incident, and that drawing attention to the risk is in any case part of the responsible risk management expected of us by our insurers.

### **Trustees**

Boyd's recent sad demise leaves DCA a trustee short and, since our access licences with Chatsworth become due for renewal next year, we should be giving thought to a replacement. Our three trustees lend DCA legal authority where contracts and access agreements are concerned. I have attached with this report a brief note on the duties of trustees which confirms their role in acting on our behalf. (*See end of the Reports.*)

*Peter Mellors  
Legal & Insurance Officer*

## **Item 6.7 - Project Officer's Report**

Action Register items:

**Action 015** – Eldon anchors. Discharged by Bob Dearman.

**Action 025** – Volunteer contribution charge. For discussion at meeting with Christine Wilson.

Other items:

### **P8 Clean-up**

I have offered a skip paid for by the DCA to the SUSS team working in P8. They are removing a large volume of old digging gear over the coming weeks and should be supported in this effort.

### **Suicide Cave – Rock on far pitch**

This will require pinning with steel rods or the DCA should think about condemning the pitch entirely and remove their anchors. 4 volunteer hours spent on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

Return visit with Christine Wilson 20-10-17 after UCF meeting. In coordination with NT, we fitted 3 chain barriers before the scramble up to the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch to act as a warning to members of the public straying into the cave. Caver access has not been affected by this as it is easy to pass under. This, we feel, is enough to satisfy NT that the public has sufficient safety notices/barriers from the looser sections of the cave. 2 volunteer hours.

### **Winnats Pass small cave & working above Suicide Cave**

This was gated up by PK, Beth Knight and Christine Wilson on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017. 4m of angle, several cutting disks and drill bits were used and will be claimed for. 12 volunteer hours spent.

For discussion, I would like the DCA to consider their in-principal support for the following jobs:

- Giant's Hole - Replacement of failed spit sleeve anchors with BP anchors on Crabwalk High Route.
- Knotlow Mine - \* Just an idea for discussion \*, Install stainless steel steps on the Waterfall Pitch to aid caver access across the traverse and increasing the use of this venue for rigging practice. Similar in principle to the bolt-on ledges in J.H. Mine but with stainless fixings already in stock at the Container.
- Stub Scrin Shaft to Carleswark - Installing a shaft lid and cementing the ginging to allow for digging and possible re-connection to the main system.

**Pete Knight**  
**20-10-2017**

## **Item 6.8.a - Equipment Officer's Report**

### **Eldon Hole**

Three new 25mm dia. x 1m bars with substantial eyes welded on top have now been installed to complement the existing single bollard courtesy of Dan Hibbert. These bars are galvanised, set in grout and capable of anchoring HMS Queen Elizabeth. None of us and the next two generations will be around by the time they need replacement.

### **Router Hole**

Following my report to the AGM following the huge bolting project in the recent extensions the installers supplied me with an A4 survey section with the position and identification numbers of the 68 anchors hand written on it. This is patently inadequate as what is require is a formal topo outlining pitch lengths, handlines, deviations etc which can readily be understood by anyone wishing to descend. I have pursued the installers on several occasions to receive this information so it can be made available on the DCA Rigging Guide but to no avail. I am currently liaising with the original surveyors to obtain this information.

### **Manifold Valley Caves & Potholes**

No work has been done on this project.

### **James Hall Over Engine Mine**

Following a report of a dodgy anchor (ECO circa 1994) in JH Mine Henry Rockcliffe agreed to visit and assess the situation. Five new anchors were installed and a considerable number of others tested to EN959. Two of these anchors failed at 3 & 4kN which is totally unacceptable even though they've been in for the last twenty odd years. The reported anchor could not be removed so two red plastic ties have been attached as a warning pending further ongoing work. These anchors were placed in the early days before current procedures i.e. the IPTD were in place and installers were formally trained. The assessment by Henry is that several were badly placed in suspect substrate and were also subjected to forces which were not in line with the direction of load. Also the resin by Hilti is inferior in strength and adhesion to the other two resin which have superseded it. The current situation is that a warning has been placed on the DCA website and on UK Caving for caution to be exercised when descending whilst a total assessment of all the anchors at this venue is carried out. I have sent an email to all the installers to help Henry with the work necessary to rectify this potentially dangerous situation. I await their response.

### **Anchor Installation Equipment**

The equipment is in good condition and is the same as was reported to the AGM.

**Bob Dearman**  
**Equipment Officer DCA**

## **Item 6.8.b - DCA Cave Atmosphere Monitoring Report**

**1. Problems reported.** Problems of high CO<sub>2</sub> have been reported at Water Icicle Close Cavern, and at Knotlow Cavern, the latter being the scene of a DCRO incident involving a female who was cold, tired and unable to ascend the Waterfall Pitch, and thought to be affected by the high level of CO<sub>2</sub> present (3.4%).

**2. Measurements.** Some air quality measurements were taken at Lathkillhead Upper Entrance series, Water Icicle Close Cavern, Nickergrove Mine, Mouldridge Mine and Knotlow Cavern (climbing shaft series). These used borrowed instruments for measurement and the findings, indicating the presence of carbon dioxide, are given in the table in section 5 of this report.

**3. Equipment.** As previously stated, DCRO's gas monitors will soon need replacing, as will those of many other cave rescue teams around the country, and Dan Murray is currently negotiating a deal, and it is anticipated that DCA will be able to take advantage of the same deal.

The current monitors in use by DCRO are of two types - a 4-gas QRAE meter, measuring O<sub>2</sub>, CO, H<sub>2</sub>S and CH<sub>4</sub>/LEL, and a Crowcon CO<sub>2</sub> meter, similar to a device DCA used to use before it expired. The new meters will be capable of measuring all 5 gases, and are much more robust than current meters. DCRO will be purchasing calibration kit, and will be prepared to calibrate a DCA meter as before.

**4. ACBs and CO<sub>2</sub>.** Bob Mehew's paper on this subject provides food for thought, and I think that the notices which DCA have installed at the entrances to various caves and mines in the region must go a long way towards fulfilling the DCA's obligation in this area. We need to ensure that these notices cover all such venues, and that they are also reflected in the Cave Registry and Access Details held on the DCA Website.

Cave Leaders and Instructors, however, may have a problem as HSE have specific limits which must apply whilst working (i.e. wage earning) - see section 6 Reference. However, as previous attempts to impose double rope technique (DRT) instead of SRT on Cave Instructors were successfully deflected, perhaps a similar effort may apply here. It will be interesting to hear PICA's comments.

Coincidentally, DCRO, who would have to tolerate lower levels of O<sub>2</sub> and higher levels of CO<sub>2</sub> than are considered safe working practices in order to effect rescue in several Peak District venues, are currently drawing up a Standard Operational Procedure to cover such operations. We are in discussion with HSE at Harpur Hill about this.

### **5. Readings**

Cave	Date	Surface O2	Cave O2	CO2	Location & Comments
Lathkill Upper	11/07/2017	20.90			
Lathkill Upper	11/07/2017		18.20		Waiting Room (foot of rope)
Lathkill Upper	11/07/2017		17.70		Lathkiller Hall
Lathkill Upper	11/07/2017		17.60		Tiger 4
Lathkill Upper	11/07/2017		18.10		Emporium
Water Icicle	16/07/2017	20.90			Surface
Water Icicle	16/07/2017		20.40		Foot of Shaft
Water Icicle	16/07/2017		18.50		North West Passage
Water Icicle	16/07/2017		18.40		Top of Elevator
Water Icicle	16/07/2017		18.40		Cherty 2 Passage
Water Icicle	16/07/2017		18.10		Pitch after Cherty 2 Choke
Water Icicle	16/07/2017		18.00		Final Junction after Cherty 2
Nickergrove	12/09/2017	20.90			Surface
Nickergrove	12/09/2017		19.40		Bottom of Rift Chamber
Nickergrove	12/09/2017		18.90		Railway towards collapsed dig
Nickergrove	12/09/2017		18.80		Railway towards collapsed dig
Nickergrove	12/09/2017		18.70		Railway towards collapsed dig
Nickergrove	12/09/2017		19.10		Passage towards Clay Chamber
Nickergrove	12/09/2017		19.10		Various points on through route
Knotlow	14/09/2017	20.90		0.01	Surface
Knotlow	14/09/2017		20.90	0.60	Top of Pitch2
Knotlow	14/09/2017		20.00	1.21	Pearl Chamber
Knotlow	14/09/2017		19.70	1.75	Top of Waterfall Pitch
Knotlow	14/09/2017		19.60	1.56	Top of Waterfall Pitch
Knotlow	14/09/2017		19.50	1.50	Top of Waterfall Pitch
Knotlow	14/09/2017		19.10		Foot of Waterfall Pitch
Mouldridge	17/10/2017	20.90			Surface
Mouldridge	17/10/2017		20.90		Dressing Circle
Mouldridge	17/10/2017		20.30		Drop-through Chamber
Mouldridge	17/10/2017		20.30		Top of Banana Slide

#### 6. Reference. Statutory limits

STEL - Short term exposure limit. Maximum allowable concentration over a shorter time period, usually 15 minutes.

TWA - Time Weighted Average.

LTEL - Long term exposure limit. Calculated as an 8-hour time weighted average.

LEL = Lower Explosive Limit. This is for CH<sub>4</sub> (Methane), which is explosive between 5% and 17% of the local atmosphere. The readings indicate the amount of methane by volume, but stated (somewhat confusingly) as a percentage which indicates how close you are to the lowest concentration capable of explosion (5%).

So: 0.5% by volume is indicated by an LEL reading of 10%;  
1.0% by volume is indicated by an LEL reading of 20%;  
5.0% by volume is indicated by an LEL reading of 100%

Statutory Levels	CO Carbon Monoxide	H <sub>2</sub> S Hydrogen Sulphide	CO <sub>2</sub> Carbon Dioxide	O <sub>2</sub> Oxygen	LEL Methane
Units	ppm	ppm	%	%	%
Low Alarm	30	10	0.5	19.0	10
High Alarm	200	20	1.5	23.0	20
STEL	200	15	1.5	n/a	n/a
TWA	30	5	0.5	n/a	n/a

## Item 6.9 - DCA Training Officer's Report

### **DCA TRAINING EVENTS October 2017/18** **Derbyshire Caving Association Caver Workshops**

**DCA**

#### **DCA/BCA SRT Introduction workshop** (Module 3) - Saturday **December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

This is the perfect introduction to SRT and is essential to pick up modern techniques and try before you buy your ideal SRT set up.

#### **SRT Introduction Training course** (Module 3) - Saturday & Sunday **January 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> 2018**

Full low ratio SRT course for you to learn from a leading CIC instructor.

#### **SRT Intermediate Training course** (Module 3) - Saturday & Sunday **February 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> 2018**

Follow on from the basic introduction SRT course looking at re belays, deviations, aid traverse lines etc.

#### **SRT Master class** - Sunday **January 7<sup>th</sup> 2018**

#### **SRT Assessment** (Module 3A) - Saturday **December 9<sup>th</sup>** - places available

Half day skills assessment of your personal SRT.

#### **DCA/BCA Specialist SRT Rigging and Rescue Workshop** (Module 4) - Sunday **December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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.

#### *DCA Coaching Scheme*

Formerly the DCA Training Officers Training Scheme, this has now been developed into the DCA Coaching Scheme which is available to all who are looking towards training other cavers.

#### **DCA Coaching Workshop** (Module 5) - Saturday **November 25<sup>th</sup>** - Derbyshire

This brand new workshop is designed to introduce the skills of coaching and look at the teaching of modules 2 and 3, vertical caving. This is an essential workshop for club trainers to complete. Please contact us for the criteria to attend this workshop.

### **Other Specialist DCA workshops & Training Courses**

#### **Surface Navigation Workshop** - Sunday **Dec 17<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.

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

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

Level 1 Wednesday & Thursday Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> – Derbyshire - cave

Level 1 Friday Nov 25<sup>th</sup> – Derbyshire - mines day

Level 2 Wednesday & Thursday Dec 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> – Derbyshire

#### **BCA Cave Instructor Training** (CIC)

Monday October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017

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

Good caving

**Nige**

t: 01283 210666 m: 07831 449919

*Nigel Atkins DCA. Training officer*

*nigel@pennineorganisation.com*

## **Item 6.10 - Newsletter Editor/Publications Officer's Report**

Publication of *The Derbyshire Caver* through 2017 is continuing on course to achieve four issues for the year and sufficient content is being received to fill the maximum sixteen pages per issue that postage costs normally allow. By the time you read this the Autumn 2017 issue should have hit the streets.

Work on the index has unfortunately slowed to a snail's pace this summer due to other commitments but will pick up now that winter is looming.

As highlighted in the reports to the 24th June 2017 meeting by the Secretary and myself, funding received by DCA from the British Caving Association has been reduced. The cost of printing the newsletter as an A4 part-colour publication and distributing it by post to all members is no longer sustainable. There are a number of options:

- a) The number of issues could be reduced from 4 to 3 per year. On the basis of the projected costs for the year given in the Secretary's report dated 22nd June 2017 this would save around £250.
- b) The subscription payable by DCA individual members could be increased. A rise from £10 to £12 per year, say, would bring in around £90 per year.
- c) DCA member clubs do not pay a subscription on the basis that the costs are met by BCA. Since this subsidy has been reduced, should an annual subscription now be levied? £5.00 per year, for example, would bring in around £170 per year.
- d) Provide *The Derbyshire Caver* as a download to all members, choice of either a pdf or Word file, with the option for a printed copy at a charge to cover costs, say £2.50.

For what it's worth, my personal preference is for option d).

As always, my sincere thanks to everyone who has submitted articles or photographs for publication – please help me (and DCA) out by keeping that material coming. If you haven't sent anything in for publication, please think about doing so.

**Mike Higgins** *DCA Newsletter Editor/Publications Officer*  
20/10/17

## **Item 6.11 - Cave Registry Secretary's report**

The Cave Registry now has the COPD text installed and synched, thanks to Angus' and Wayne's efforts - though the COPD text is currently 'private' to viewers, with simple access details in the viewable information. Hopefully a 'confidentiality' feature can be added soon to allow sites without current access arrangements, or of a very sensitive nature, can be added without being displayed publicly. Further improvements are in the pipeline.

I should be able to tidy up the remaining loose ends of new or outstanding submissions by the end of the week.

**Phil Wolstenholme**, *Cave Registry Secretary*.