



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Open Council Meeting, 30 June 2018, 10am, Monyash Village Hall

MINUTES

Present:

Officers:	Chairman	Wayne Sheldon [WS]
	Acting Secretary	Jenny Potts [JP]
	Treasurer	Angus Sawyer [AS]
	Equipment Officer	Bob Dearman [BD]
	Cave Registry Secretary	Phil Wolstenholme [PW]
Clubs:	Orpheus C. C.	(Jenny Potts)
	Eldon P.C.	(Bob Dearman)

Individual Members: (Jenny Potts, Phil Wolstenholme, Wayne Sheldon, Angus Sawyer, Bob Dearman), Shirley Burtonshaw,

1. Chairman's Welcome:

Meeting began at 10.10am. WS welcomed those present and noted we have had a number of apologies sent in as this is a very busy time for outdoor pursuits instructors.

2. Apologies for absence: Establish Quorum.

2.1 **Apologies received from:** (Vice Chairman) Alan Brentnall, (Legal & Insurance Officer) Pete Mellors, (Projects Officer) Pete Knight, (Training Officer) Nigel Atkins, (Newsletter Editor) Mike Higgins. Clubs: Masson C.G. (Jim Borrington). Individual Members: Karen Slatcher, Elaine Hill

2.2 **Quorum:** Quorate with 4 officers present plus Chairman. BD arrived a few minutes later

3. To Approve Minutes of the previous Council Meeting: (24 February 2018, previously circulated).

3.2 **That the Minutes of the Council Meeting of 24 Feb. 2018 be approved.**

Prop. P.Wolstenholme, Sec. B.Dearman **Agreed**

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

- 4.1 001 **Odin Mine, Progress on reopening.** NT are looking at legal implications and trying to find a suitable compromise. Noted no access to gorge at present. Ongoing.
- 4.2 002 **New multiple use meter to test for gases.** (See 6.7). Discharged.
- 4.3 005 **UCF Report to be on Open section of website, Minutes on Officers section.** (See 6.3).
- 4.4 009 **Review DCA Fixed Aids Policy.** Ongoing. **Action: JP and BD**
- 4.5 010 **Manifold bolts required.** (See 6.8.a).
- 4.6 012 **Identify volunteers to help with SSSI monitoring.** In Hand CW. **Action: CW, All**
- 4.7 020 **New batteries for angle grinder to be bought.** (See 6.7). Ongoing.
- 4.8 022 **Future of A.S.S.** a). Check asset register; (See 6.3).
 b). Flatpack ASS and dispose of unwanted items. JP has made a start on unwanted items. Hand torches and batteries, small cycle helmets have been thrown away. Modern helmets (small size) might be passed to a club. JP needs banner, stand tent, etc. to go to someone else in DCA - DCA container was suggested as store but this is down to PK. Display boards and some artwork are stored at British Caving Library. Ongoing. **Action: JP, PK, AS**
- 4.9 023 **Check replacement of materials used for Bateman's Adit gate.** (See 6.3 & 6.7).
- 4.10 024 **Update Devonshire topo and upload to website.** (See 6.7). Discharged.
- 4.11 025 **Investigate volunteer contribution charge.** (See 6.7). Ongoing.
- 4.12 027 **Scan surveys held by BCL and place on DCA website.** Ongoing, JP seeking volunteers. Will Whalley has offered to do the scanning for free so need to get items to him. Need to identify what wants scanning from items currently at the BCL. Ongoing. **Action: JP, PW, WS**
- 4.13 028 **Cave Entrance photos for website.** (See 6.3).
- 4.14 032 **Stub Scrin Shaft to be capped.** (See 6.7). Awaiting start.
- 4.15 034 **Tools needed for Project work.** (See 6.7). Ongoing. Buy when needed.
- 4.16 035 **Sell remaining CoPD copies to best advantage.** (See 6.2). Ongoing.
- 4.17 036 **Investigate possible DCA funding for Radon Dosimeters.** (See 6.7). Ongoing.
- 4.18 037 **Find new Secretary for DCA.** (See 6.1 & 6.2). Urgent JP will produce advice. **Action: JP**
- 4.19 038 **Install lid on Longcliffe Shaft and place any necessary bolts.** (See 6.4).
- 4.20 039 **Giants Hole, investigate bolting downstream from Chert Hall.** (See 6.7). Ongoing.

4.21 040 **Devonshire, tidy and install new shaft lid.** (See 6.7). Ongoing.

5. Election of New Members

5.1 **Individual Members:** **Charles Cooley.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Wolstenholme. **Agreed.**
Shirley Burtonshaw. Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Wolstenholme. **Agreed.**

6. Officers' Reports.

6.1 **Chairman.** (See report circulated prior to the meeting.)

6.1.1 **DCA Recruitment Poster:** (Para. 3) Poster to be printed. PW can organise this and meeting suggested he investigate nos. to print and try tea shops, caving shops, club HQs, leisure centres, outdoor centres etc. to gauge numbers required. Suggest all be printed A4 poster size. **Action: PW, WS**

6.1.2 **That the Chairman's Report be accepted.** Prop. B.Dearman, Sec. P.Wolstenholme. **Agreed**

6.2 **Acting Secretary / BCA Rep.** (See report circulated prior to the meeting.)

6.2.1 **CoPD sales.** JP has said she will continue to deal with sales of DCA publications, also distribution and sales of printed NL. PW queried the need to be thinking of the next edition of CoPD but JP suggested there is likely to be at least a 3 year lead time and we should not remainder existing copies until a new edition is well in hand.

6.2.2 **New DCA Secretary.** Urgent that we find a new Secretary a.s.a.p. because JP will not be available for last 2 weeks of October so cannot deal with admin for the 27th. Oct. meeting. JP will write out instructions for recorder/admin. person to assist. **Action: JP**

6.2.3 **That the Acting Secretary's Report be accepted.** Prop. S.Burtonshaw, Sec. P.Wolstenholme. **Agreed**

6.3 **Treasurer / Webmaster.** (See report circulated prior to the meeting.)

6.3.1 **Current position:** Details are given on the final page of the reports. JP notes we have enough money so that people should not have to spend their own on DCA business.

6.3.2 **That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.** Prop. B.Dearman, Sec. P.Wolstenholme. **Agreed.**

6.3.3 **DCA NL on the website.** Noted interest in downloading/reading DCA NL from website. MH had expressed interest in scanning earlier issues for the website. **Action: MH**

6.4 **Conservation Officer.** (Absent but see report circulated prior to the meeting.)

6.4.1 AS noted that he has to provide invoices to be able to claim against the 5000 GBP from E.N. Some confusion over claim for materials spent on Bateman's Level though BCA-provided equipment was used to do the job.

6.4.2 **Longcliffe.** PW reported that NT have agreed to remove excess waste from site and the fencing is being taken down. Now on last stages of job to fix shaft top and install a lockable lid and it will eventually need bolting using BCA supplied BP bolts. PW will need to draw up rigging topo ready for bolts but system not open yet as there are archaeological remains to protect.

6.4.3 **That the Conservation Officer's Report be accepted.** Prop. B.Dearman, Sec. S.Burtonshaw. **Agreed.**

6.5 **Access Officer.** (Absent and no report received but see JP's report re. **Herne Hill Cave** circulated prior to the meeting.)

6.5.1 JP explained the situation with Ulley Activity Centre and thanked them for their offer to look after the cave. She suggested that we should invite Ulley Activity Centre to become Associate members of DCA free of charge. **Agreed.** **Action: JP**

6.5.2 JP noted that she had heard nothing from DCA Access Officer, Gary Noble, re. this incident, despite asking for his input.

6.6 **Legal & Insurance Officer.** (Absent and no report sent in.)

6.6.1 PM is understood to be unwell.

6.7 **Projects Officer.** (Apologies sent but see report circulated prior to the meeting.)

6.7.1 PK had received a last minute call to work so not present.

6.7.2 **Jug Holes Adit gate.** The Jugholes adit Derbyshire key mechanism has just been repaired by Ian Web. Thanks to Ian for sorting this. A 27mm spanner or large adjustable is now required.

6.7.3 **Bung Ladder.** PW reported that it had been replaced yesterday.

6.7.4 **P8 cleanup** - suggested we offer to pay travel expenses for the people involved in the project. AS to sort with SUSS.

Action: PK, AS

6.7.5 **Suicide Cave.** Noted PICA references re. NT involvement.

6.7.6 **That the Projects Officer's Report be accepted.** Prop. B.Dearman, Sec. P.Wolstenholme. **Agreed**

6.8.a **Equipment Officer.** (See report circulated prior to the meeting.)

6.8.a.1 **Manifold Bolting.** P.Wagstaff is on the case and is preparing to start work a.s.a.p. now as the weather is dry so this will be first priority. Offers of help have been received.

6.8.a.2 **Installers.** BD reports AS and Phil W. also now trained to install bolts.

- 6.8.a.3 **Tackle Bags.** Agreed to buy tackle bags for use of installers so they don't wreck their own gear. BD will buy and claim. **Action: BD**
- 6.8.a.4 **BCA bolts available.** The new BCA Equipment officer is looking to make the new CNCC (Simon Wilson) bolts available to other regions if required.
- 6.8.a.5. **That the Equipment Officer's Report be accepted.** Prop. S.Burtonshaw, Sec. P.Wolstenholme. **Agreed.**
- 6.8.b DCA Cave Atmosphere Monitoring report.** (*Apologies sent but see report circulated prior to the meeting.*)
- 6.8.b.1 **List of Sites.** The list of sites where bad air has been reported would be useful to DCA. Could be useful to get plastic notices made plus carefully worded warning on the DCA website.
- 6.8.b.2 **That the Cave Atmosphere Monitoring Report be accepted.** Prop. J.Potts, Sec. S.Burtonshaw. **Agreed.**
- 6.9 Training Officer.** (*Apologies sent but no report circulated prior to the meeting.*)
- 6.9.1 JP reported NA had emailed to say he was very busy at present with the new BCA post and hoped to send out a programme of Training Events shortly.
- 6.10 Newsletter Editor.** (*See report circulated prior to the meeting.*)
- 6.10.1 **That the Newsletter Editor's Report be accepted.** Prop. S.Burtonshaw, Sec. P.Wolstenholme. **Agreed**
- 6.11 Cave Registry Secretary.** (*See report circulated prior to the meeting.*)
- 6.11.1 **Scans of surveys for website.** JP reported that there is an offer to do scans of large surveys for free from WW. He is on expedition at present but will start on this on his return. There are likely to be other surveys available to be scanned held in the John Beck collection at BCL but these need to be catalogued before this can be done and volunteers are sought. **Action: JP, WS, PW**
- 6.11.2 **That the Cave Registry Secretary's Report be accepted.** Prop. B.Dearman, Sec. S.Burtonshaw. **Agreed.**
- 7.1 BCA Matters**
- 7.1 **Report from BCA AGM, Sat. 3 June 2018.** (*See report circulated prior to the meeting.*)
There were no questions re. JP's report on the BCA AGM. The Minutes will be posted on the BCA website.
- 8. Date & Venue for next Council Meeting**
- 8.1 **Council Meeting: 27th. October 2018.**
- 8.2 The **2019 AGM** has been agreed as Saturday 23rd. Feb. 2019 followed by a brief Council Meeting
- 9. Any Other Business**
- 9.1 None
- There being no other business the meeting finished at 12.31pm
- J.Potts,
Recorder**
- Appended to these Minutes and forming part of them are the following reports:**
- 6.1 Chairman
 - 6.2 Acting Secretary / BCA Rep.
 - 6.3 Treasurer / Webmaster
 - 6.4 Conservation Officer
 - 6.5 Access Officer
 - 6.6 Legal & Insurance Officer
 - 6.7 Projects Officer
 - 6.8.a Equipment Officer +
 - 6.8.b DCA Cave Atmosphere Monitoring report.
 - 6.9 Training Officer
 - 6.10 Newsletter Editor
 - 6.11 Cave Registry Secretary
 - 7.1 BCA AGM Report



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Open Council Meeting, 30 June 2018, Officers' Reports

6.1. DCA Chairman's Report

Following the DCA AGM and council meeting back in February, I undertook a series of discussions with key officers with a view of getting DCA into the limelight with cavers in general. We decided that it had to be by using social media, CNCC, BCA, Caving clubs use Facebook and Twitter to get their information out there so why shouldn't it be any different for DCA. Not everybody agrees with Facebook but we need to move with the times.

Myself and Pete Knight set up a Facebook page, this has been used with good success up to now, we have many followers and likes, project information / pictures is being incorporated, minutes and Agendas are being shared.

A poster was also created by Pete K and Phil W, advertising DCA and this is being used to get us into the limelight, this has been shared by Facebook and Twitter. I want to encourage Caving club huts to display this poster for us in their huts.

It's too early to see if this as resulted in new members or potential officers but only time will tell.

Jenny informed me last week that a volunteer who has the scanning facilities will start scanning the surveys from the John Beck collection shortly for publishing on the DCA website. I'm sure this will be discussed in other reports .

A concern I am having is finding a replacement for Jenny, she is currently still acting a secretary and would like to release her very soon to allow her to carry on with her duties elsewhere. As I write this, I have put a message out via our Facebook page, to encourage any potential volunteers to get in touch and discuss the role with us.

That's everything for today.

Wayne Sheldon

6.2. Acting Secretary's Report

Communications

As no new volunteer to take over as DCA Secretary has been found yet I have had to continue as Acting Secretary for the time being. I have issued one Information Circular, 2018/2 on 21st. April, giving the list of DCA Officers for 2018-19 and reminding all members of the changes to the printed distribution of *The Derbyshire Caver*: that it would now be online unless members paid to subscribe. I also sent separate circulars to Clubs and Associate Members reminding them that *The Derbyshire Caver* would now be online unless they asked to receive printed copies, free of charge in future, if they have a library.

Publications Sales

For issue no. 148 of *The Derbyshire Caver* we printed only 47 copies, instead of the 134 needed for the circulation of the previous issue, and the print cost dropped from £264.50 to £47.00. 9 clubs and Associate Members have asked for free copies for their libraries and we now have 16 subscribers, of whom 5 are DCA Individual Members. This will represent a considerable saving in DCA's running costs over the year.

So far this year we have sold 30 copies of *Caves of the Peak District*, 29 via traders (at a discount), and 1 bought direct from me, raising £397.00 for DCA funds. We currently have over 600 copies remaining unsold of the 2000+ originally printed in 2010, so now is a good time to begin thinking about the next edition, which will take some years to produce.

A New DCA Secretary

A new Secretary is now urgently needed as I shall away for the next Council Meeting at the end of October and for 2 weeks beforehand. I would suggest that the job might usefully be divided into a General Secretary, dealing with communications with officers, members and outsiders, publicity, etc; and a separate Assistant Secretary acting as recorder for meetings and, working with the Chairman to prepare agenda and minutes and other paperwork required for meetings.

*Jenny Potts, 22 June 2018
Acting Secretary*

6.3. Treasurer's Report 23 February 2018

As of 23rd February 2018 the account balances are:

Lloyds Current Account	22,456.25
Unity Trust Deposit Account	0.00
Unity Trust Current Account	414.58
RBS Deposit Account	1.01
RBS Current Account	161.24
Total	23,033.08

We have received the contributions to work on SSSI sites agreed with Natural England. Provisional 2017 accounts submitted to BCA.

Outstanding Actions

- 005. No UCF material received yet.
- 022. Awaiting confirmation from JP.
- 024. no progress.
- 028. ongoing work.
- 029. done by JP.
- 035. -

See Separate sheet at the end of the Reports for details of Profit and Loss for period covering 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018 and Account Summary 08/06/2018

Webmaster Activities

PDCI site

New PeakDistrictCaving.info site launched on 1st February 2018. Publicised in Decent issue by Rob Eavis. Shaun Puckering has renewed the domain name on the DCA's behalf.

Peak Survex Project (Rob Eavis and Dave Nixon) now has a page and 3d model downloads on the pdci site.

An assortment of detailed surveys of parts of Peak/Speedwell now available on the site.

DCA site

Issues of Derbyshire Caver 122 – 146 now available on DCA web site.

Issues with backend database storage quotas being reached because of excessive activity from some marketing analysis companies addressed.

Contributions of introductory texts and photographs for most catchments required.

**Angus Sawyer,
DCA Treasurer & Webmaster**

6.4. Conservation Officer's report

Report based on the Underground Conservation Forum (UCF) April 2018

Natural England funding

Natural England have secured £5000 of funding for DCA to help with cave conservation projects. Many thanks to Dan Abrahams, our area Natural England adviser, for this! Dan also mentioned that Natural England's Health and Safety policy has changed so its staff are now not allowed down caves so he and NE are relying more than ever on DCA and the goodwill of cavers to help them with conservation monitoring and related works.

SSSI roundup in the Peak

Eldon Hole dig: A report from Tim Allen Historic England based on a meeting in Sheffield 20th April 2017

"We had a very constructive meeting and discussed the recent important discoveries by the Buttered Badgers in Eldon Hole. The likely antiquity of the remains recovered from excavation and the implications of this for the national archaeological importance of the hole suggest to all parties that this a good point at which to stop going down and to assess the opportunities that this material presents and what further non-intrusive investigations might be possible from the position we now are. Historic England, the Peak District National Park Authority and Natural England are very keen to continue working with Mark Richardson and the Buttered Badgers (with the very welcome involvement of Dr Hannah O'Regan of Nottingham University) on these exciting finds. All parties are keen to support positive management including ensuring the long term stability of the recently dug shaft, the conservation of the site's archaeological significance as a whole and on-going sustainable access to Eldon Hole. We will up-date the Forum when we have scientific dating on the bones found and engaged with the site owner"

Longcliffe:

The restoration project at Longcliffe Mine is finally reaching a conclusion at surface. All the spoil that was remaining at the shaft bottom, and an additional amount stored in the side-passage halfway down has now been removed, and therefore the hillock around the shaft pipe has reached its final height. The side-passage is in the process of being cleaned down, and all the planks from the floor and the loading platform have been removed.

The remaining 70cm of twin-wall pipe protruding above surface has been surrounded by blockwork and concrete, and then the entire structure jacketed with natural stone brought out of the mine, fastened in with a heavy mortar. The top surface has had a 10cm thick layer of concrete applied, with a circular rim cast around the twin-wall pipe, neatly encasing it. Engineering drawings for a custom grille have been produced and given to Cavendish Engineering for fabrication, and will incorporate an access hatch and bat slot. The entire grille will be removable if necessary for rescue and/or training.

The breadth of the hillock across the E-W axis has been considerably extended, both to maintain stability on the steep slope and to produce a neater profile for eventual grassing-over. The hillock surface, comprising smaller stones and mineral gravel, whilst not ideal for plants, is very fast-draining, and so we are steadily covering the entire hillock with a top-dressing of molehill soil, which is

abundant on the slope, in order to promote grassing-over after seeding in the autumn. Only the top course of stones around the shaft top will eventually protrude above surface, producing a low-profile solution that will be almost invisible from the road once grassed-over. (**Report by Phil W**)

Bull Pit dig, Perryfoot

A report from Andrew Chamberlain, University of Manchester, April 2018

"Faunal remains were recovered from the TSG dig in Bull Pit in 2017. A preliminary examination of the specimens has allowed the identification of bones and teeth of red deer, roe deer, horse, wolf and a small quantity of microfauna including water voles and bank or field voles. Skeletal remains of red deer and horse were found in accumulations at depths of approximately 10 metres and 20 metres, and probably represent parts of the same animals and therefore showing vertical movement of bones through the cave system.

"The wolf bones were found at a depth of 25 metres below ground surface and include most parts of the skull of an adult animal together with a complete forelimb bone (see Figure). Measurements of the dimensions of the teeth and the length and breadth of the skull indicate that this animal is a wolf (*Canis lupus*) rather than a domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*). The skull was fragmented but mostly complete, and the presence of a complete radius (forelimb bone) suggests that the entire skeleton of this animal may have been present originally within the cave system.

"The presence of red deer and wolf suggest some antiquity to the bone deposits. Wolf remains have been recorded from fourteen caves in the White Peak, including some examples in the bone assemblage found at the nearby site of Windy Knoll Fissure. The wolf was probably extinct in this part of England by AD 1300, and red deer would have largely disappeared from this region during woodland clearance and enclosure in the later medieval period.

"A more complete report on the animal bones is in preparation."

Christine Wilson

6.5. Access Officer's Report to be tabled.

Note from the Acting Secretary re an Access issue

On 2 May there was an incident late in the evening involving a cave in Maltby, which resulted in the Police being called out. Unfortunately the Police Officer, by mistake, phoned the Derbyshire Caving Club Secretary, who was on holiday in France at the time, and insisted that DCC were responsible. A Police-approved firm, Rapid Secure, were called - they are always called where it is required by the Police that a "premises" is secured within 45mins. of the report of problems. The resulting invoice for £228.00 was sent to BCA on 15 May with an address for the incident of "Derbyshire Caving Club, Main Road, Maltby, Near Rotherham" - BCA subsequently emailed it on to DCA.

After discussions between the DCA and BCA Treasurers and myself at the BCA AGM, it was agreed that this would have to be DCA's responsibility if it turned out to be Herne Hill Cave 1 (in the supermarket car park at Maltby), but that BCA would refund DCA for any costs. As the DCA Treasurer was away, I contacted Rapid Secure and explained the problem; the very helpful manager there confirmed with the person who had dealt with the incident that it was H.H.C.1, in the car park, that a padlock had been placed on the metal gate and that the key was now with the Police.

The invoice for £228.00 has now been re-issued, made out to DCA, emailed to me and I have forwarded it to The DCA Treasurer so that it can be paid on 30th. June, when he is back. I have asked that the DCA Access Officer and Mike Adams of Ulley Activity Centre (who use the cave for some of their trips), liaise with the local Police to obtain the new key and ensure that, in the event of future problems, the Police call DCA and also the Ulley Centre straight away so that the matter can be dealt with on the spot, without the need for Rapid Secure's involvement. It was believed this system had been put in place after the problems in March 2017 - but clearly it didn't work this time, so it needs to be confirmed again with the local Police and probably also with the manager the supermarket.

6.6. Legal & Insurance Officer's Report to be tabled.

7. Project Officer's Report

Action Register item:

- 002 Gas Meter – Discharge as I have one in my possession now.
- 020 Batteries – Ongoing
- 023 Batemans – Ongoing as awaiting info from treasurer about this. I think it's too late and we should drop it.
- 024 Devonshire – Discharged. Topo provided.
- 025 Volunteer Charge – Ongoing
- 032 Stub Scrin – Awaiting start.
- 034 Tools – Ongoing to be bought when needed.
- 036 Radon – Ongoing. Awaiting PICA arrangement with PHE. Offer has been made.
- 039 Giants – Ongoing. Summer break due to high radon. Will pursue in winter.
- 040 Devonshire – Ongoing. Daryl Godfrey and team have made big leaps forward here. Progress update pending.

Other items:

P8 Clean-up

I offered a skip paid for by the DCA to the SUSS team working in P8. As they could not find a company to deliver a skip to a layby

they did a tip run in their own cars. They did thank DCA for the offer in this most recent Descent. Should we offer a token gesture car wash?

Suicide Cave

Paul Mortimer at NT has sent me in my capacity as PICA Chairman a draft access agreement for users of NT caves. I can't really discuss this as it is PICA business, but I just wanted to make DCA aware that there are changes brewing to the current open access we have on NT sites for the most part and DCA should keep abreast of it.

Knotlow Lid

The hinge on the Engine Shaft lid has broken off. I have the hinge, I have a welder and I have access to welding gear. What we have not managed yet is to coordinate that lot to do it. Working on it!

Bung Ladder

I assisted with the removal of the Bung ladder in Peak Cavern and placed 4 BCA anchors to make the area passable without the ladder.

As usual, the summer is my peak time and I will be rather limited in my ability to respond to jobs or continue projects now until the Autumn. It is worth noting that I have had offers of assistance from Roy Rogers and Charley Cooley and will see if they have time to take on some of the list over the summer.

Pete Knight
15-6-2018

6.8.a. Equipment Officer's Report

The only installations carried out since the AGM are four replacements anchors protecting the newly repaired Bung ladder in Speedwell Cavern. Four connectors i.e karabiners or maillons and sixteen metres of rope are required for rigging. My thanks to Pete Knight and Phil Wolstenholme.

The next job already in the planning stages is to BP anchor the various caves in the Manifold Valley. There are as yet no DCA anchors in this area. Pete Wagstaff is taking on this project and will be liaising with Pete Ray on his return from holiday at the end of June. The caves where this work will be carried out are :- Darfar Pot (3 Pitches), Riverside Entrance, Magic Mushroom, Proband Entrance, Lime Pits Mine Shaft Upper Entrance, St. Bertrams Upper Level (Skull Rift), and Ladyside Entrance. At the moment my spies tell me that the river is sinking just before Riverside Swallet so now the majority of the caves will be accessible. This will be an interesting installation as we have never had an area where the anchors will be underwater for a protracted time over the winter and spring. Initially there will have to be annual inspections of any submerged anchors to ensure there are no premature failures. Following the completion of this project the bolting of Deep Space in Hungerhill Swallet and the Upper Series traverse above the Crabwalk in Giants Hole will be the next jobs on the agenda.

All the kit is in good condition but supplies of anchors will need to be replenished as I only have 13 left. Also we are out of in-date resin. I have contacted Nick Williams and he is liaising with the new E&T Convenor as to the protocol for obtaining supplies. Nick's opinion is that there will be no problems. I have also talked to Nick concerning the purchase of a protective waterproof box for the Hydrajaws and a new 20kN gauge which will be useful for extracting any suspect anchors. I would like DCA to give me permission to buy a couple of tackle bags so that installers don't have to wreck their own personal kit.

Bob Dearman
DCA Equipment Officer

6.8.b. DCA Cave Atmosphere Monitoring Report

1. Problems reported.

No problems of high CO₂ have been reported so far this year, despite some high temperatures. I have entered our two worst offending venues (Water Icicle and Knotlow) at least twice over the period and have not been aware of any problem myself.

2. Measurements.

Because of the lack of reports from cavers, and because I have been quite busy sorting GDPR issues for DCRO and another organisation, very little measurement has taken place. One of the new DCRO GS500 monitors was used in Yatestoup Sough on Thursday 07 June by Pete Dell with a group led by John Gunn, and readings were quite benign, with oxygen reported at around 20.5% and carbon dioxide at 0.2%, well below the alarm1 threshold.

3. Equipment.

DCA has now got two new gas monitors. The main monitor is a GS500 5-gas unit capable of detecting and measuring oxygen, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, hydrogen sulphide and methane. It is identical to units recently purchased by DCRO, and DCA's unit will be calibrated by DCRO as and when this is needed. Additionally, and as requested, we also have a smaller oxygen monitor which is for use by volunteers doing project and remedial work for DCA.

4. Recording Bad Air Issues.

Originally, I took over the job of keeping records of bad air (dates, venues, measurements where possible) from Dave Webb. These go back as far as 2009, and can be very useful when predicting problems. As part of my current work for DCRO, I have produced a Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) for dealing with bad air, and I am happy to share this with other interested parties and would value any feedback. Recent discussions with leaders and controllers on the team have included a request that I produce an annotated list of venues within the region where bad air has been reported.

Assuming that DCA has no problem with this, I will be creating this document quite soon.

5. Reference.

Statutory Levels	CO Carbon Monoxide	H ₂ S Hydrogen Sulphide	CO ₂ Carbon Dioxide	O ₂ 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

Alan Brentnall

6.9. Training Officer's Report to be tabled.

6.10. Newsletter Editor / Publications Officer's Report

The changes agreed at the DCA Meeting on 28th October 2017 have now been implemented and the current issue of *The Derbyshire Caver* (No 148, Spring 2018) was produced for members as a full colour download via the DCA website. I understand from the Webmaster that quite a few copies have been downloaded, plus copies of some of the older issues. The new policy therefore seems to have both increased the readership and saved a fair bit of money – success!

Although work on the index to *The Derbyshire Caver* has been slow over the last few months due to various other commitments I hope that I shall catch up a bit later this year. Although I am standing down as editor at the next AGM I shall continue to compile the index. Once this is complete I may look at scanning copies of the older pre-digital era material with a view to gradually getting a complete set online.

As always, my sincere thanks to everyone who has submitted articles or photographs for publication; I wish that there were more of you! Please help me (and DCA) out by keeping material coming. If you haven't previously sent anything in for publication, please think about doing so.

Mike Higgins, 15/6/2018
DCA Newsletter Editor/Publications Officer

6.11. Cave Registry Report

The Cave Registry is up-to-date and working fine, with some new data occasionally trickling in from users. There is now a 'Hidden' flag available in the back-end which allows entries to be rendered invisible to searches/views by users, and we hope to implement this soon by adding several new and somewhat sensitive sites that need logging and access info archiving but cannot yet be visible to the public.

The cave entrance photos are being collated by Angus and are being applied to sites as they arrive. Hopefully as a solution is found for large-scale scanning (and it sounds like there may now be), more surveys can be added to each entry to help build a much more comprehensive archive.

The Peak-Speedwell online micro-guides, formerly on the original Peak District Caving website have now been re-edited and updated where necessary and are now pending a review. Once cleared they will be uploaded.

Phil Wolstenholme
Cave Registry Secretary

7. Report on BCA AGM, 3 June 2018 - held in the Forest of Dean

There were 2 other DCA officers present as well as myself and also a number of other members of DCA clubs among the 40 or so BCA members present. There were around 18 Group Members present and voting (DCA being one of these) and around 30 Individual Members, and votes were tallied using the Two-House system. On the whole I felt it was a very productive meeting, although there were some points of contention, and all matters voted on were approved with a very substantial majority in both Houses.

Given the generally positive meeting I found it particularly disappointing that the CSCC Rep. voted against the adoption of the "BCA policy statement on the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW)", which was seen as a positive and non-controversial statement encouraging conservation of caves. This was approved as BCA Policy by Groups (15 for, 1 against and 2 abstentions) and by Individual Members (26 for, 0 against and 2 abstentions).

Andy Eavis has now stood down as BCA Chairman after 9 years and his place has been taken by Les Williams, who will serve for the next three years.

Robin Weare remains as Treasurer for one remaining year but has someone in mind to hand over to;

Nick Williams remains as Acting Secretary and a new Secretary is urgently sought to take over from him.

Following Les taking over as Chairman, his position as Publications and Information Officer became vacant and has been taken over by Jane Allen (aka Pegasus of UKcaving.com) whose background is in marketing & publicity.

Tim Allen has stood down as CRoW Liaison Officer after 4 years of hard work and his place has been taken by David Rose, a journalist and writer with excellent connections in political circles.

No Legal & Insurance Officer was elected as it has been decided to do away with this post altogether and to seek legal advice from a qualified practitioner should it be necessary.

Nigel Atkins was elected as the Training Officer and the proposed change of the title to "Recreational Training Officer" was rejected, so that the terms of reference of the Training Committee are to be re-examined and its relationship to the QMC (Qualifications Management Committee), dealing solely with Instructed Caving and qualifications, is to be re-thought.

A Working Group was established "... to determine a new mission and vision for the organisation ..."; this being composed mainly of younger cavers and aiming to report to the 2020 AGM.

A Technical Advisor has been appointed to set up an audio/visual system to allow remote access to BCA meetings, with the aim of avoiding the current lengthy travel of Council reps. to BCA meetings at a central location. BCA will also be investigating the possibility of having "... electronic voting on motions and nominations properly presented to the Annual General Meetings." Again, the aim is to have something in place by the 2020 AGM.

It was also unanimously agreed to establish a Youth and development Standing Committee, reaffirming BCA's commitment to its younger members.

Jenny Potts
DCA Rep. to BCA AGM.

**Derbyshire Caving Association Profit & Loss For Period
Covering 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018**

Revenues		Expenses	
Income	£0.00	Expenses	£0.00
Subscriptions & Entry Fees	£245.00	General Admin	£0.00
Publications	£0.00	Post	-£90.44
CoPD	£345.60	Materials, printing, copying etc	£737.67
News Letters	£116.80	Total General Admin	£647.23
Total Publications	£462.40	Conservation, Access etc.	£0.00
Donations	£0.00	Travel	£114.88
General Fund	£26.00	Total Conservation, Access etc.	£114.88
Total Donations	£26.00	Equipment	£0.00
BCA Grants	£0.00	Materials	£1,392.00
Training	£450.00	Total Equipment	£1,392.00
Total BCA Grants	£450.00	Publications	£0.00
Awards and Grants (non caving)	£0.00	Newsletter	£101.29
Other	£3,597.96	Total Publications	£101.29
Total Awards and Grants (non caving)	£3,597.96	Total Expenses	£2,255.40
Bank Interest	£1.66	Total Expenses	£2,255.40
Total Income	£4,783.02	Net income for Period	£2,527.62
Total Revenue	£4,783.02		

Account Summary 08/06/2018

Account title	Balance
Current Assets	
Lloyds Current Account	£21,125.35
RBS Current Account	£310.24
RBS Deposit Account	£1.01
Unity Trust Current Account	£0.00
Unity Trust Deposit Account	£0.00
Total Current Assets	£21,436.60