



# 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,033.08</b>

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 <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

*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](http://UKcaving.com)) whose background is in marketing a publicity.

Tim Allen has stood down as Convenor of the 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.

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

**Revenues**

Income		£0.00
Subscriptions & Entry Fees		£245.00
Publications	£0.00	
CoPD	£345.60	
News Letters	£116.80	
Total Publications	£462.40	
Donations	£0.00	
General Fund	£26.00	
Total Donations	£26.00	
BCA Grants	£0.00	
Training	£450.00	
Total BCA Grants	£450.00	
Awards and Grants (non caving)	£0.00	
Other	£3,597.96	
Total Awards and Grants (non caving)	£3,597.96	
Bank Interest	£1.66	
Total Income		£4,783.02
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>£4,783.02</b>

**Expenses**

Expenses		£0.00
General Admin	£0.00	
Post	-£90.44	
Materials, printing, copying etc	£737.67	
Total General Admin	£647.23	
Conservation, Access etc.	£0.00	
Travel	£114.88	
Total Conservation, Access etc.	£114.88	
Equipment	£0.00	
Materials	£1,392.00	
Total Equipment	£1,392.00	
Publications	£0.00	
Newsletter	£101.29	
Total Publications	£101.29	
Total Expenses		£2,255.40
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>£2,255.40</b>
Net income for Period		£2,527.62

**Account Summary 08/06/2018**

Account title	Balance
<b>Current Assets</b>	
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
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>£21,436.60</b>