



## DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 10 am, 21st. February 2004 Monyash Village Hall

**Present:**

Clubs:

Eldon Pothole Club  
Masson Caving Group  
Orpheus Caving Club  
Rolls Royce C. C.

J.Taylor [JT]  
C.Broome [CB], M.Higgins [MH], D.Webb [DW]  
B.Potts [BP], P. Lydon [PL]  
V.Holbrook [VH]

Individual Members:

I.Barker [IB], R.S.Dearman [RSD], S.Gibbs [SG], T.Gibbs [TG], T.Jackson [TJ],  
W.Jennison [WJ], J.Potts [JP],

**1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME:**

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and established that there was a quorum.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

P.T.Mellors, N.Atkins, J.Parr, H.Lomas (OCC), D.Jones, J.R.Johnson (Crewe C.P.C.), E.Hill

**3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE A.G.M. OF 22 FEBRUARY 2003:**

These had been previously circulated.

*"That they be taken as a correct record."* Prop. T.Jackson, sec. T.Gibbs. *Agreed unanimously.*

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE A.G.M. 2003 MINUTES:**

4.1 12.6 S.Yorks RIGS: TG reported no meetings held - he is trying to check if it is still operational.

**5. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:**

Individuals: **Elaine Hill:** prop. J.Cordingley, Sec. I.Barker. *Approved unanimously.*

**Steve Roberts:** P.I.C.A. member, Sec. T.Gibbs. *Approved unanimously.*

**6. OFFICERS' REPORTS: (All Officers' Reports tabled.)**

**6.1 CHAIRMAN:**

R.S.Dearman's Chairman's Report was considered.

*"That the Chairman's Report be approved."* Prop. B.Potts, sec. T.Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*

**6.2 SECRETARY:**

J.Potts' Report was considered. DW suggested that PDMHS publications might be willing to carry flyers for the DCA Handbook and for the DCA publications on Mines. There was general agreement on movement to circulation of DCA information to members by electronic mail rather than by post.

*"That the Secretary's Report be approved."* Prop. I.Barker., sec. T.Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*

**6.3 TREASURER:**

a. J.Potts' Report was considered. She noted that Training Events run by DCA with the aid of NCA grants have been self-funding. An explanation was given of printing costs incurred under the Publications heading. She explained that the variation between an excess income last year of £472 and a deficit of £670 this year were partly due to variations in amounts of grant given in successive years and partly due to funding publications which had yet to realise their potential income. In her view the general situation was healthy.

*"That the Treasurer's Report be approved."* Prop. T.Jackson, sec. I.Barker. *Agreed unanimously.*

b. Financial update, 1 Oct 2003 - 20 Feb 2004: (Printed Update Report tabled.)

JP commented on the current balances and commended DW's initiative in helping to set up the E.N. Contract which should help DCA's finances considerably in the next financial year.

JP reported that, as usual, dealing with P.L. insurance created anomalies in our accounts with funds held temporarily by DCA before being paid over to the brokers. She explained the differences between the way the DCA P.L. Insurance with Perkins Slade worked (P.S. themselves set the premium per head to be collected and DCA added a small admin. charge to this) and how the new national BCA Insurance worked (The brokers set a "lump sum" to be paid for the total cover and BCA's insurance manager and officers had to decide the rates charged to members to cover this sum). DCA currently paid £400 for its P.L. Insurance as a body but if it switched to the BCA scheme it would only pay £100; individuals insured through DCA currently paid £9.25, individuals insured through BCA pay either £18 (caver) or £6 (non-caver) but in both cases insurance via a club required all club members to be insured. It would be possible for DCA itself and those insured through DCA to buy into the BCA scheme for the last quarter of 2004, pro rata, if DCA decided not to renew its scheme. Full details of the BCA scheme were on the BCA website. The whole matter is being kept under review and she and P.T.Mellors are liaising with both Perkins Slade and the BCA Insurance Manager.

JP's comments on a new edition of "Caves of the Peak District" and the inclusion of rigging guides in the DCA Handbook met with general approval.

*"That the Treasurer's Financial Update Report be approved."* Prop. T.Jackson, sec. C.Broome. *Agreed unanimously.*

**6.4 LEGAL & INSURANCE OFFICER:**

P.Mellors' Report was considered. DW commented that, whatever CRoW regulations might say, shaft capping was being carried out by owners and we had to respond to this. TJ noted that there were changes in the DEFRA approach and he would liaise with PTM in monitoring these.

*"That the Legal & Insurance Officer's Report be approved."* Prop. T.Jackson, sec. I.Barker. *Agreed unanimously.*

## 6.5 **CONSERVATION & ACCESS OFFICER:**

J.Taylor's report was considered and some specific points arose.

- a. Garden Path: RSD noted that the locks needed to be replaced by more secure locks with uncopiable keys and that, until this was done, there could be no access. SUSS had approached JT with a proposal for scientific work to be carried out and there was approval for this in principle once locks had been replaced, the fully revised access procedure had been sorted out and taping had been completed. It was agreed that strict controls would be necessary and the work would have to be monitored. JT would liaise with SUSS on the detailed arrangements.
- b. Sidetrack Cave: No access agreement is in place at present and the Conservation & Access Team would deal with this.
- c. P.8 Layby: TJ explained in detail what was planned for the site which was now being partly taken up by the new Pennine Bridleway. There was a need to investigate the shaft and culverts associated with the site area. The authorities involved had agreed the area would be hardcored to provide parking but it was not clear how much space would be available compared to the former parking which could accommodate half a dozen or more vehicles on this very popular site. TJ would continue to monitor progress and report to JT.

*"That the Conservation & Access Officer's Report be approved."* Prop. B.Potts, sec. P.Lydon. *Agreed unanimously.*

## 6.6 **ACCESS OFFICER:**

I.Barker's report was considered. He noted that the new arrangements for Giants Hole seemed to be working well but that there would be no access to Snelslow Swallet, though it was under the same ownership as Giants.

Orpheus Caving Club would be dealing with the Waterways Swallet car park.

*"That the Access Officer's Report be approved."* Prop. J.Taylor, sec. C.Broome. *Agreed unanimously.*

## 6.7 **CONSERVATION OFFICER:**

D.Webb's report was considered and some specific points arose.

- a. JT commented that the Underground Conservation Forum was working very well now, thanks to DW.
- b. It was felt that the Conservation Audit of caves of archaeological interest should go well as English Heritage are already aware of the work done by DCA for E.N. and cavers should be able to provide a good deal of useful information. TG noted that E.H. are about "access with interpretation" so there should be no worries about access being withdrawn because sites are of archaeological interest.
- c. TG noted with approval DW's comments on the importance of clubs appointing their own conservation officer.
- d. DW has supplied of tape and pegs for clubs to use.
- e. The Shaft Capping Steering Committee has started work and it is hoped to draw up professional guidelines for shaft capping which will safeguard access, protect sites of interest to mining historians, allow for bats and address public safety issues. DW is a member of the steering Committee.
- f. DCA did not wish to be involved in dealing with access to Goodluck Mine at present but was monitoring developments.
- g. The Snelslow cleanup, part of the E.N. Contract, had been completed and DCA now awaited settlement of the funding.
- h. DW had put in for a grant under the Greenwatch Award Scheme for the SSSI Monitoring Project.

*"That the Conservation Officer's Report be approved."* Prop. J.Taylor, sec. I.Barker. *Agreed unanimously.*

## 6.8 **TRAINING OFFICER:**

N.Atkins' report was considered and some specific points arose.

- a. RSD reminded members of the DCA/NCA Cavers Workshop at Pindale on the weekend following the AGM.
- b. TG queried whether there would still be DCA involvement in LCMLA schemes; he was assured there would be as DCA was represented on the Local Area Panel.
- c. NA's comments on the problems likely to be posed by HSE's proposed Work at Height Regulations were noted. JP noted that NCA, though its Training Committee and through the NCA Chairman's involvement with the CCPR Outdoor Pursuits Panel, were in the forefront of opposition to this measure.

*"That the Training Officer's Report be approved."* Prop. B.Potts, sec. T.Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*

The meeting expressed its thanks to Nigel Atkins, who was unable to be present, for all his enthusiastic work on training for club cavers.

## 6.9 **NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

P.Lydon's report was considered. The meeting expressed its thanks to PL for taking on the post following Alan Keen standing down.

*"That the Newsletter Editor's Report be approved."* Prop. T.Jackson, sec. I.Barker. *Agreed unanimously.*

## 6.10 **CAVE REGISTRY SECRETARY:**

J.Beck's report was considered. The meeting expressed its thanks for his continuing and consistent work on the Derbyshire Cave Registry.

*"That the Cave Registry Secretary's Report be approved."* Prop. T.Jackson, sec. I.Barker. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.11 At the conclusion of the reports RSD expressed his thanks, on behalf of DCA members, to all the Officers.

## 7. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

7.1 *"That all existing officers willing to continue with their posts be re-elected."*

Prop. T.Jackson, sec. B.Potts. *Agreed unanimously.*

The following were therefore declared re-elected:

<b>Chairman - R.S.Dearman;</b>	<b>Secretary - J.Potts;</b>	<b>Treasurer - J.Potts;</b>	<b>Legal &amp; Insurance Officer - P.Mellors;</b>
<b>Conservation &amp; Access Officer - J.Taylor;</b>	<b>Access Officer - I.Barker;</b>		<b>Conservation Officer - D.Webb;</b>
<b>Training Officer - N.Atkins;</b>	<b>Newsletter Editor - P.Lydon;</b>		<b>Cave Registry Secretary - J.Beck</b>

7.2 **Equipment Officer: Dave Cowley:** Prop. Eldon P.C., sec. I.Barker. *Agreed unanimously.*

Agreed unanimously to leave the post of Projects Officer open.

**Publications Officer: Paul Lydon:** Prop. Eldon P. C., sec. J.Potts. *Agreed unanimously.*

- 7.3 **Planning Liaison Officer:** Noted that the previous Officer, D.Mycroft, had moved and we now had no contact with him. The need for a specific post of Planning Liaison Officer was queried: most planning authorities had publicly accessible websites and it was now much easier to keep a check on applications. Noted that D.Mycroft had set up a system which had proved extremely useful and it would be a pity to allow this to lapse. It was suggested that it could be more efficient to have a group of individuals each taking responsibility for applications in their own area and all liaising with the Conservation & Access Officer.

For the time being **C.Broome** offered to carry out the post of **Planning Liaison Officer for the Derbyshire Dales Area**. T.Jackson was already keeping watch on the High Peak area. JT agreed to try to re-establish contact with D.Mycroft.

**8. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTIONS:**

- 8.1 **DCA Constitution:** No amendments proposed at present but it was noted they may be necessary in due course to fit in with DCA's changed role in the new national body for caving, BCA.
- 8.2 **Underground Conservation Forum:** The new Constitution / Terms of Reference for the U.C.F. (formerly the Cave Conservation Regional Management Committee) were *approved unanimously*.

**9. ELECTION OF CAVE DISCOVERY FUND PANEL:**

The following were proposed and appointed unanimously: B.Potts, T.Jackson, I.Barker.

**10. NCA AGM / BCA INAUGURAL SGM - 20. MARCH 2004: OUTLINE OF BUSINESS AFFECTING DCA:**

Noted there was no specific business affecting DCA and members had already approved the moves towards the new national body.

**11. APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES/REPRESENTATIVES TO NCA AGM / BCA ISGM AND NCA / BCA COMMITTEES:**

- 11.1 Delegates for the NCA AGM / BCA ISGM on Saturday, 20th. March 2003 at Alvechurch.  
Several DCA members would be attending as club reps. or observers. J.Potts was appointed the DCA Representative.
- 11.2 NCA/BCA Executive Committees. J.Potts was appointed the DCA Representative.
- 11.3 Special Committees. (Appropriate DCA Officers have normally attended the Special Committee Meetings):  
Conservation & Access - D.Webb or J.Taylor,  
Training - N.Atkins,  
Legal & Insurance - P.T.Mellors,  
Equipment - D.Cowley.
- 11.4 Other Committees / Working groups:  
Structure Working Group, (the "Hub") - J.Potts  
Radon Working Party - P.T.Mellors  
National Cave Register Co-ordinating Committee - J.Beck.  
LCMLA Area Panel - D.Webb

**12. APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES/REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:**

- 12.1 SSSI Regional Liaison Group, Derbyshire: DCA Chairman and DCA Conservation & Access Team.
- 12.2 Peak Instructed Caving Affiliation: J.Potts, D.Webb.
- 12.3 East Midlands Federation of Sport & Recreation: J.Potts.
- 12.4 Derbyshire & Peak Park Sport & Recreation Forum: J.Potts.

**13. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR:**

- 13.1 AGM 2005: Saturday, 19 February 2005. Monyash Village Hall, 10am.
- 13.2 Council Meetings - All 10am at Monyash Village Hall.:  
Saturday, 24 April 2005 + 2 more to be determined in late summer and late Autumn.

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

- 14.1 **Caves of the Peak District:** Agreed that in principle DCA should sponsor the publication of a new edition. Agreed that Sam Townsend be invited to lead the editorial team with support from J.Taylor, J.Beck and I.Barker. T.Jackson also needed to be involved as he was dealing with updates to the DCA Handbook; P.Lydon as Publications Officer should be involved; R.S.Dearman, D.Webb and J.Potts wished to be involved/kept informed and T.Gibbs offered his help if required for the sections dealing with Magnesian Limestone areas.
- 14.2 **Rigging Guides:** Agreed in principle that rigging guides / topo diagrams should be included in the DCA Handbook since DCA was responsible for placing the Eco-anchors. These could be incorporated during the updates later this year. IB offered his help with this.
- 14.3 **Pull-Thro' Installations:** Noted that certain pairs of Eco-anchors in Giants Hole were being damaged by being regularly used as pull-thro's and might be best replaced by specially designed pull-thro' systems. JP would look into costings etc. with the DCA Equipment Officer.
- 14.4 **'1978 Goods and Services Act':** WJ drew members' attention to this Act, which gave the opportunity for Government Departments to help 'non-profit making' organisations to purchase Goods and Services at preferential rates that are available to other Authorities, eg County Councils, District Councils etc. He was thanked for this useful information. JP would follow this up.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.25pm.

*J.Potts, Recorder*

**APPENDED TO THESE MINUTES AND FORMING PART OF THEM IS THE DCA ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2003**