



## DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of Council Meeting, 10.00am, 24 April 2004, at Monyash Village Hall

|                 |                            |                                    |  |
|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>PRESENT;</b> | <u>Officers:</u>           | Chairman DCA:                      | Bob Dearman [BD]                           |
|                 |                            | Acting Chairman for Meeting:       | Terry Jackson [TJ]                         |
|                 |                            | Secretary/Treasurer:               | Jenny Potts [JP]                           |
|                 |                            | Conservation & Access Officer:     | John Taylor [JT]                           |
|                 |                            | Equipment Officer:                 | Dave Cowley [DC]                           |
|                 | <u>Clubs:</u>              | Training Officer:                  | Nigel Atkins [NA]                          |
|                 |                            | N/L Editor / Publications Officer: | Paul Lydon [PL]                            |
|                 |                            | Orpheus C. C.                      | Boyd Potts [BP], Heather Lomas [HL]        |
|                 | <u>Individual Members:</u> | Masson C. G.                       | John Highfield [JH]                        |
|                 |                            |                                    | Terry Jackson [TJ], (Bob Dearman, J.Potts) |

#### 1. APOLOGIES / QUORUM:

- 1.1 Confirmed the Meeting was quorate.
- 1.2 Apologies received from: Crewe C.P.C. (Ralph Johnson), Iain Barker, Dave Webb, Chris Broome, Pete Mellors, Tony Gibbs, Stuart Gibbs, Dave Edwards, Bill Jennison, Tim Webber, John Coxsey, Geoff O'Dell, Andy Tickle, Challenge the Peak.
- 1.3 In view of BD's current ill health, he proposed Terry Jackson take the Chair for this meeting. **Agreed.**

#### 2. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF 15 NOVEMBER 2003: (Circulated previously.)

Proposed BP, sec. PL: "*That these be accepted as a correct record.*". **Agreed unanimously.**

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 15 NOVEMBER 2003:

- 3.1 3.5 Waterways car park: Clearing work had been done by Orpheus C.C. members. Prop. JT, sec. BD. "*Vote of thanks to OCC for work done.*" **Agreed unanimously.**
- 3.2 3.6 DCA Rock Drill: BD had not been able to contact M.Lowe to retrieve this. JP would try. Noted that ML also has the plaque for Nettle Pot. **ACTION: JP**
- 3.3 3.3 Equipment Officer: Dave Cowley has agreed to take on the post and was welcomed to the meeting.
- 3.4 3.4 Otter Hole: D.Mycroft has been in contact and JT would follow this up. BD reported that the plans for the housing estate had been refused at appeal as "the density of housing was not high enough". A new application may be submitted asking for denser housing but the applicants were required to first carry out "a full geological survey". BD would maintain a watching brief. Noted that Chris Broome has agreed to deal with Planning applications. JP passed on the notes to JT.

#### 4. MATTERS OF IMMEDIATE IMPORT ARISING FROM THE AGM 2004:

All would be covered under Officer's Reports later in the meeting. Agreed to take the matter of Rigging Guides under Item 9, A.O.B.

#### 5. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

Individual Members: **John Coxsey** - prop. J.E.Potts. **Approved unanimously.**  
**Geoff O'Dell** - prop. J.E.Potts. **Approved unanimously.**  
**Andy Tickle** - prop. N.Atkins. **Approved unanimously.**

#### 6. OFFICERS' REPORTS:

##### 6.1. Hon. Secretary/Treasurer: (Written Report tabled.)

Noted with approval the amount currently held in DCA accounts.

*"That the Secretary/Treasurer's report be accepted."* Prop. JT, sec. BD. **Agreed unanimously.**

##### 6.2. Training Officer's Report: (Written Report tabled.)

- 6.2.a NA put forward a suggestion that DCA could organise trips for people who wanted to try out caving. This could help those who wanted to obtain LCMLA status and would encourage people who wanted to get into caving and he could sponsor the trips with kit and insurance. Noted that any club insured through DCA or BCA could accept temporary members but that insurance must be paid for through the club. (DCA's own insurance would not cover taking people caving.) Comment from OCC and MCG members present that their clubs welcomed new members and were willing to offer trips for novices as part of club training schemes.
- 6.2.b NA said that he was intending to set a new record for "upside-down prussiking" which he hoped would become an entry in the Guinness Book of Records.  
*"That the Training Officer's report be accepted."* Prop. JP, sec. HL. **Agreed unanimously.**
- 6.2.c NA noted that Mik Starr was providing excellent courses on First Aid related to Cave Rescue.
- 6.2.d NA would be giving a talk at Hidden Earth.
- 6.2.e It was noted that there had been 3 SRT incidents involving DCRO in Derbyshire in 4 months: 2 in Giants (on Garlands) and one in Titan. It was clear that there was a need for sensible leadership and proper training in SRT before novice cavers launched into it underground.

NA was thanked for attending to present his report and left the meeting at this point.

##### 6.3 Conservation & Access Team report: J.Taylor presented the Team's Report.

##### 6.3.a. Conservation Officer's Report: (Not able to be present but Written Report tabled.)

1. Hamps-Manifold Conservation Audit: DW reported that Martin Milner was working on this and progress was good.

2. Shaft Capping: There had been some complications in getting agreements.
3. Knotlow Pollution: Noted that records should be accessible through the DCA website as well as others. The Water Authorities were looking to improve water treatment facilities across Derbyshire and this might help to improve matters. Noted that the book should be replaced shortly.
4. LCMLA Panel Meeting - Comments re. spits: Views expressed by those present were;
  - All spits placed originally in Giants and P8 should have been removed and replaced by P-anchors. As far as we knew, this had been done, so no-one should have been placing spits recently and we assume any still in place are likely to pre-date 1992.
  - There are no records kept by DCA of any placements of spits and we know of no other records of who placed them - they are not covered by DCA or NCA (now BCA) insurance and the installers always stayed anonymous.
  - DCA actively discourages the placement of any spits in well-used caves for reasons which have been well-rehearsed in the past. P-anchors are the preferred scheme and these will be placed in consultation with members, with due regard to both safety and conservation issues, and monitored by DCA. Having said this, no-one had any idea who might have been removing spits recently - it certainly hasn't been done at the instigation of DCA or in consultation with DCA officers.
  - We would expect that any queries about bolt placements for instructed caving in Derbyshire caves should come through P.I.C.A. to DCA.

The Equipment Officer, Dave Cowley, was asked to look into this and make enquiries and also to check out the situation with the present P-anchors, some of which are suffering because of persistent mis-use by ignorant leaders who insist on lowering people using a rope threaded through the eye of one of a pair of P-anchors. (We assume these leaders are not LCMLA trained.)

**ACTION: DC, DW**

5. "Do You Dig Caves" Leaflet: It was generally felt that this was a really excellent production. JP noted that EN's own website has details of exact locations of all SSSIs.
6. Reported Problems re. P-Anchors in Giants: Noted there were problems with conservation and safety. **ACTION: DC, DW**
7. Lead Rakes Week: JP agreed to circulate programmes when these became available.  
*"That the Conservation Officer's report be accepted."* Prop. BP, sec. BD. **Agreed unanimously.**

**6.3.b Access Officer's Report:** (Not able to be present but Written Report tabled.)

1. Ashford Marble Mine: The new graffiti had been removed but the "historical" graffiti had been left. Certain local outdoor centres have a permanent "Green Card" which allows them to collect a key at any time - they pose no problem. Bob Dearman would deal with casual visitors in future to prevent mis-use of keys. BD, IB and PTM would agree the new system to be used and then check the DCA Handbook entry to see if it needed to be altered. The new system would need to be publicised once it was set up. **ACTION: BD, IB, PTM**
2. Peakshill systems: Noted that Snelslow Swallet has no access at present. "Son of Nettle" has good rock which can be moved to Snelslow to help with wall building.
3. Garden Path Keys: JT noted that these had now been sorted through the efforts of BD and IB and the new locks were in place. Bakewell Police, Chatsworth and E.N. each hold a key to be kept strictly for emergencies. BD holds the two loan keys. JT awaited a formal contact from SUSS re. research they wished to carry out in Garden Path; when they do contact him the system is now set up to allow access.
4. P8 Parking: TJ reported on progress on the Pennine Bridleway work near P8. PL reported that there was now only cramped space for 2 cars. TJ will contact the contractors again to pressurise them to reinstate the parking as per. the original agreement. **ACTION: TJ**

*"That the Access Officer's Report be accepted."* Prop. PL, sec. BP. **Agreed unanimously.**

5. Cave Conservation Plans production Method: JP reminded members that we needed to approve formally the new document as a replacement for the former version.

*"That the revised document 'Cave Conservation Plans Production Method' be approved."* Prop. BP, sec. HL.  
**Agreed unanimously.**

**6.4. Equipment Officer's Report:** (DC gave a verbal report.)

- 6.4.a Bolt Installation: DC would liaise directly with Les Sykes to arrange a training course. JP would ensure that all paperwork is transferred to DC and that, with JT's assistance, the database is transferred. **ACTION: DC, JP, JT**
- 6.4.b Drills and bolting equipment: the drill, etc. was with Ralph Johnson. DC would contact him direct to arrange transfer. **ACTION: DC**
- 6.4.c Rock Drill: When this had been retrieved from Mark Lowe this should go to DC.
- 6.4.d DCA Cement Mixer: This was currently being stored by Orpheus C.C. and was available for use if required.  
*"That the Equipment Officer's Report be accepted."* Prop. JP, sec. BP. **Agreed unanimously.**

**6.5. Legal & Insurance Officer's Report:** (Not able to be present but Written Report tabled.)

- 6.5.a Sidetrack Cave: There was a potential legal problem re. access to Sidetrack Cave. There was no Conservation Plan for the cave yet but it had been taped.

*"That the Legal & Insurance Officer's Report be accepted."* Prop. HL, sec. JT. **Agreed unanimously.**

- 6.5.b BCA P.L Insurance: JP explained the differences between the organisation of the DCA insurance scheme and the new BCA scheme. Both were acceptable at present and it would be possible for those insured under the DCA scheme to buy in to the BCA scheme for the last part of the year to take them up to the BCA scheme commencement date of 1st. January. We would need to consider the future of the DCA scheme carefully as, while we did not wish to run a DCA Insurance "in opposition" to the BCA scheme, we wished to be assured that the BCA scheme would still be running in 2005 if we dropped the present insurance through DCA with Perkins Slade.

**6.6. Newsletter Editor / Publications Officer's Report:** (Written report tabled.)

It was agreed that the most recent issue of the Newsletter was excellent and that, if possible, we would like to go to a coloured cover.

*"That the Newsletter Editor / Publications Officer's Report be accepted."* Prop. JT, sec. BP. **Agreed unanimously.**

**7. REPORT ON NCA/BCA MATTERS:**

- 7.1 NCA AGM held 20th. March 2004. JP had attended as DCA's representative and reported that this had gone through with no controversy.
- 7.2 BCA Inaugural S.G.M. held 20th. March 2004. JP had attended as DCA's representative and reported that this had gone through with little controversy and that we now seemed well on course for NCA to wind up formally in March 2005 and with all its business transferring to BCA as the new national governing body for caving by Dec. 31 2004.
- JP explained the likely effect of the new voting system whereby each member of a BCA member club would now have a vote in any postal ballot. Currently this relied on the insurance records to enable ballots to be posted out to each individual but, since it had been agreed that the DCA Insurance scheme was acceptable as an alternative for this year only, in the event that that a BCA ballot was required during 2004, it would be necessary for DCA-insured clubs to provide a complete list of their members to BCA. Noted that non-DCA-insured clubs would have to pay an administrative fee to enable their members to be registered to take part in a BCA ballot.
- 7.3 NCA/BCA council Meeting held 20th. March 2004: JP had attended as DCA's representative and reported that NCA and BCA Council meetings were being held in parallel for this year as the officers were the same for both organisations.
- 7.4 NCA / BCA Consolidation. JP asked members to note that, as part of the progress towards a "one stop shop" for cavers, CNCC had agreed that it would no longer be necessary for member clubs of NCA/BCA to be members specifically of CNCC in order to obtain access to CNCC-controlled caves. All DCA member clubs were already members of NCA/BCA so all were eligible to apply for permits for CNCC-controlled caves.

*"That JP's reports on NCA/BCA matters be accepted."* Prop. PL, sec. JT. *Agreed unanimously.*

**8. NEXT DCA MEETINGS:**

- 8.1 DCA AGM 2005. Booking for Monyash Village Hall now confirmed for 19 February 2005.
- 8.2 DCA Council Meetings for 2004: Agreed these would be **17th. July 2004 and 27th. November 2004.** JP would book the Hall.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

- 9.1 Rigging Guide: Agreed that we would want the new "Caves of the Peak District" to contain pitch lengths and descriptions for all caves but not actual topos. or details of bolt placements as these were subject to change. Also agreed that we would wish to see topos. giving location details of the bolts in the DCA Handbook for those caves where DCA had installed Eco-anchors.
- 9.2 Winnatts Head Cave: Noted that one of the original spits is loose and that this cave could be considered for P-bolting in due course.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.30pm.

*J.E.Potts, Recorder.*

**APPENDED TO THESE MINUTES AND FORMING PART OF THEM IS THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT:**

Officers' Reports to the DCA Council Meeting, 24 April 2004

- |    |          |   |  |
|----|----------|---|--|
| a. | Item 6.1 | Hon. Secretary/Treasurer's Report                 |  |
| b. | Item 6.2 | Training Officer's Report                         |  |
| c. | Item 6.3 | Conservation & Access Team report:                | 6.3.a Conservation Officer's report<br>6.3.b Access Officer's report |
| d. | Item 6.5 | Legal & Insurance Officer's Report                |  |
| e. | Item 6.6 | Newsletter Editor / Publications Officer's report |  |