



# DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of Council Meeting, 10 am. 20 October 2007, Monyash Village Hall

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Officers:</b>	Chairman	Bob Dearman [BD]
		Vice-Chairman	Terry Jackson [TJ]
		Secretary/Treasurer	Jenny Potts [JP]
		Conservation Officer	David Webb [DW]
		Publications Officer	Paul Lydon [PL]
<b>Club Representatives:</b>	Eldon P. C.:	(Bob Dearman)	
	Orpheus C. C.:	Boyd Potts, (Jenny Potts)	
<b>Individual Members:</b>	Karen Slatcher [KS], Jan Langdon [JL], (Bob Dearman, Jenny Potts)		

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies received from: Iain Barker (Access Officer), Pete Mellors (Legal & Insurance Officer), Wayne Sheldon (Projects officer), Nigel Atkins (Training Officer), Chris Broome (Asst. Sec. / Planning Liaison), Frank Beasley (Chest. C.C.), Glyn Brown (Challenge the Peak).

Chairman confirmed the Meeting was quorate and commenced at 10.00am.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING, 23 JUNE 2007: *(Previously circulated.)*

Amend the Minutes to add Terry Jackson (Vice-Chairman) to the list of those sending apologies.

*That, subject to the amendment above, the Minutes be accepted as a correct record.*

Prop. B.Potts, sec. K.Slatcher. *Agreed unanimously.*

### 3. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

- 3.1 3.2 **Derbyshire Try Caving Day:** See under Cons. Off. Report, (5.2).
- 3.2 5.2.a & 5.5.a **Suicide Cave:** See under Cons. Off. Report, (5.2) & L. & I. Off. Report (5.5).
- 3.3 5.2.b **Jug Holes Traverse Bolting:** See under Cons. Off. Report, (5.2).
- 3.4 5.2.f **Nickergrove Bolting:** See under Cons. Off. Report, (5.2).
- 3.5 5.2.b **Garden Path Access:** See under L. & I. Off. Report (5.5).
- 3.6 5.3.b **Water Icicle Shaft in the Woods:** See under Cons. Off. Report, (5.2) & L. & I. Off. Report (5.5).
- 3.7 5.4.a **Waterways Swallet Lid:** See under Cons. Off. Report, (5.2).
- 3.8 5.6.b **BCA Anchor Installation Discussions:** See under BCA Council Report (6.b).
- 3.9 5.6.c **Giants Hole "Cable & Ring Y-hang":** JP gave details of the investigations conducted by BD, BP and others, which had been circulated as part of the Minutes of 23 June 2007 Council Meeting and were also on the DCA website. PICA were now satisfied that the rig behaved exactly as it was designed to do in enabling a simple safeguard for descents from the Upper Series.
- 3.10 5.6.d **Rusted Maillons in Knotlow:** JP had emailed R.Johnson to accept his offer of replacement.
- 3.11 5.2.g **Loose block in Oxlow Shaft:** Now the exact location had been identified, BD and DW would deal with it.

### 4. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

**Jan Langdon**, proposed as an Individual Member of DCA. *Agreed unanimously.* Jan was welcomed as a Member.

### 5. OFFICERS' REPORTS:

#### 5.1 Secretary/Treasurer's Report: *(Written report tabled.)*

- 5.1.a **Financial Updates:** JP had today paid out £140.00, so reducing the Current Account balance.
- 5.1.b **Rowter Hole Shaft Top Rebuilding:** WS has estimated that this will cost around £700.
- 5.1.c **Training Grants:** JP reminded members that these were still available for Club events; application details were on the BCA website.
- 5.1.d **PICA Members whose DCA membership has lapsed:** JP will follow this up with the Secretary of PICA.
- 5.1.e Proposals re. AGM and subscriptions taken separately under item 5.10.

*That the Secretary/Treasurer's Report be accepted.* Prop. P.Lydon, sec. T.Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*

#### 5.2 Conservation Officer: *(Written report tabled.)*

- 5.2.a **Suicide Cave:** Recent inspection had found the large boulders blocking the unsafe lower crawl had been removed and the warning notices burnt. It was felt that DCA had now done all it could and that it was now up to the National Trust to take action. DW would write to the National Trust, explaining the problem and passing the matter back to them for action.
- 5.2.b **Adopt a Cave:** JP noted that the "Adopt a Cave" list recently published in DESCENT included 5 organisations which were not members of DCA, nor even members of BCA, yet had supposedly adopted Peak District caves. In some of the caves supposedly "adopted" by these 5 organisations there had been recent vandalism and no evidence of any attempt at conservation work except for work done by DCA's own members or officers. JP would contact DESCENT to ask for contact details of the organisations listed to find out whether they were in fact active.  
Noted that Chesterfield C. C., though not listed in DESCENT, continued to maintain a watch on Carleswark and Eyam Dale House Cave. DW would like to hear details of conservation work done in any Peak District caves.
- 5.2.c **Graffiti:** JP noted that the recent issue of DESCENT had included a very pertinent cartoon about cavers who "graffiti'd" caves. She would enquire who had drawn it to see if it could be reproduced in a DCA publication or whether the artist could do a similar one for us.
- 5.2.d **Water Icicle Close Mine:** DW reported arrangements were now in hand to locate the second shaft for Water Icicle.
- 5.2.e **Waterways Swallet Lid:** JP offered to contact one of the Keyhole C.C. members she knows personally about this.

5.2.f **Cliffhanger Event:** DW reported that this had generated a lot of interest and the event had gone well, particularly on the Saturday when the weather was good. It might be worth considering whether DCA could acquire or borrow a suitable marquee/shelter for future outdoor events to enable us to put on videos, etc. in case of bad weather.

*That the Conservation Officer's report be accepted.* Prop K.Slatcher., sec. T.Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*

**5.3 Projects Officer's Report.** *(Apologies sent and written report tabled.)*

5.3.a **Shaft on New Rake:** Noted that there is a need to ensure that the shaft on New Rake is not permanently blocked off and that an access arrangement can be put in place.

*That the Projects Officer's report be accepted.* Prop. B.Potts, sec. T.Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*

**5.4 Access Officer's Report.** *(Not able to be present.)*

5.4.a **Thorswood & Bincliffe:** JP had spoken to IB on the phone and he confirmed that there was no access to either of these sites and no prospect of any agreement with Staffs. Wildlife Trust while they continued to demand a £5 million P.L. insurance and would not accept the standard £2 million BCA insurance. Otherwise he reported all was well as far as he knew.

5.4.b **Bagshawe Cavern:** BD reported in detail on the work currently being done with the approval of Peter Revell's daughter, Amanda, to restore access to Bagshawe. Eldon P.C. were carrying out the necessary work, both above and below ground, and it was intended to set up a key system which would require that visiting cavers could demonstrate that they were insured. (A list of Clubs currently insured would be required each year.) The entry fee will be reduced to £2.00 and there will be an "honesty box" system, so the cave will no longer operate as a "show cave" open to the general public. Groups would be allowed access to certain areas but some areas would have to be kept closed to all visitors on conservation grounds as they were so fragile. There is already a comprehensive, 12-page Cave Conservation Plan, illustrated in colour to show areas requiring special care, prepared by John Taylor. It was suggested that this could be made available on the DCA website and that cavers should be encouraged to read it before visiting the cave. BP suggested that photos of the cave be made easily accessible on the DCA website. It was also noted that the cave is an S.S.S.I.

BD assured everyone that, as soon as the necessary work is complete, full details of access arrangements will be publicised to all cavers and will be included in the DCA Handbook.

5.4.c **Peak District Access Information:** PL asked us to note that the Hitch 'n' Hike website was no longer showing access information and queried whether details for some sites, where arrangements did not appear to be generally known, should be put on the DCA website pending the publication of the Handbook. JP would look into this and check what might be needed.

**5.5 Legal & Insurance Officer's Report.** *(Apologies sent and written report tabled.)*

5.5.a **BCA Insurance Cards:** Noted that BCA insurance cards had now been sent out to member clubs.

5.5.b **Garden Path Access Procedure:** PM was dealing with this in conjunction with Iain Barker. We needed details of the new procedure as soon as possible for the DCA Access & Rigging Guide.

*That the Legal & Insurance Officer's report be accepted.* Prop. T.Jackson, sec. K.Slatcher. *Agreed unanimously.*

**5.6 Equipment Officer's Report:** *(Not present and no report given.)*

5.6.a **Nickergrove Mine:** BD reported that, following consultation with PICA members, 11 Eco-anchors and a cable-&-ring Y-hang had been installed in Nickergrove.

5.6.b **Jug Holes:** It had been agreed that Eco-anchors would be placed, at the request of PICA, to enable the traverse to be safeguarded. BD would discuss and agree exact placement with DW.

**5.7 Training Officer's Report:** *(Apologies sent and written report tabled.)*

5.7.a **Training Programme for 2007-08:** NA had produced a comprehensive report giving details and dates for a number of planned Training Events to be held later in 2007 and in 2008.

5.7.b **Outdoor Show, 2008:** Noted that BCA had been invited to put on a stand at the Outdoor Show in March 2008.

*That the Training Officer's report be accepted.* Prop. T.Jackson, sec. P.Lydon. *Agreed unanimously.*

**5.8 Publications Officer:** *(Verbal Report given.)*

5.8.a **Derbyshire Caver No. 127:** Now in progress.

5.8.b **Rigging Guide for the new Handbook:** Progressing.

*That the Publications Officer's report be accepted.* Prop. T.Jackson, sec. K.Slatcher. *Agreed unanimously.*

**5.9 Asst. Secretary / Planning Liaison Report:** *(Apologies given.)*

5.9.a JP reported that Chris Broome was continuing to keep track of planning applications.

**5.10 Proposals re. Election of Officers for 2008/9 and Individual Member Subscriptions for 2008:**

5.10.a **Proposal:**

*That the AGM in 2008 be empowered to elect the following Additional Officers for 2008/9: Legal & Insurance Officer, Conservation Officer, Access Officer, Projects Officer, Equipment Officer, Training Officer, Publications Officer/Newsletter Editor, Cave Registry Secretary, Assistant Secretary.*

*(Note that these are in addition to: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer.)*

Proposed, J.E.Potts, Sec. F.B.Potts. *Agreed Unanimously.*

5.10.b **Proposal:**

*That the Individual Subscription for 2008 remain at £10.00 with £3.00 discount for BCA Individual Members.*

Proposed, J.E.Potts, Sec. P.Lydon. *Agreed Unanimously.*

**6. BCA REPORT:** *(Written report on Council Meeting 13 Oct. 2007 tabled.)*

6.a **Membership rates for 2008:** Noted that the insurance rate for caving Individual Members would rise by £1.00 to £16.00; the rate for non-caving Individual Members would remain at £5.00. This would apply to both BCA DIMs and BCA CIMs. Club Membership rates would remain the same as for 2007.

6.b **Equipment Report:** Noted that P-anchors from China are now undergoing metallurgical tests. It is noted that "P-anchors" (a.k.a. Eco-anchors) perform better than all other types of resin anchors. Following investigations it has been agreed that "pulling" existing anchors in situ in caves using a test rig is not necessary as all correctly installed anchors have been found to be satisfactory.

6.c **Anchor Installers:** It is no longer being suggested that CIC's should be the only people authorised to place bolts. Thus DCA will continue to operate as it has done up to now.

**7. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Already confirmed as the A.G.M. at **10am, on Saturday 23rd. February 2008 at Monyash Village Hall.**

**8. CAVES OF THE PEAK DISTRICT & ACCESS AND RIGGING GUIDE:**

8.a. **Caves of the Peak District:** There is a hold-up at present while proof-reading is being done. BD reported that BCRA had agreed to arrange the publishing for us and a meeting needed to be arranged between himself, J.Potts, I.Barker, J.Beck and D.Judson to organise this. Some more photos are required but the text is complete.

8.4 **Handbook:** TJ reported that the "Access" section is nearly ready, PL's "Rigging" section is in hand. JP's "Information" section will need to be accommodated in the space left once these other sections are done and the page numbering is sorted.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

None offered.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.48pm.

*J.E.Potts, Recorder*

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

**OFFICERS' REPORTS TO THE DCA COUNCIL MEETING, 20 OCTOBER 2007:**

- a. Item 5.1 - Secretary/Treasurer's Report
- b. Item 5.2 - Conservation Officer's Report
- c. Item 5.3 - Projects Officer's Report
- d. Item 5.5 - Legal & Insurance Officer's Report
- e. Item 5.7 - Training Officer's Report
- f. Item 6 - BCA Report from Council Meeting 13 Oct. 2007

**Item 5.1 - SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Communications**

Since the June Meeting, the following items have been sent to all DCA members:

- DCA Information Circular 2007/3, May/June 2007 + DCA Newsletter No. 126
- Minutes of the June Meeting, incl. Officers' Reports and the Giants Y-Hang document
- DCA Information Circular 2007/4, July-October 2007
- Agenda for Council Meeting 20 Oct. 2007

These last two items were sent by post to all members together with a slip giving the current recorded email address to check that I had these correct. Some email updates have already come in. All Minutes and Information Circulars are on the DCA website.

I also sent with the Circular 2007/4 and Agenda, to those whose BCA (Clubs and Associates - according to BCA list dated 31 Aug.) or DCA (Individuals) subscription has not been paid for this year, a final note saying their membership of DCA has now lapsed. This may well produce some overdue payments, allowing us to re-instate members, as it did last year!

**Membership**

Current Membership of DCA stands at:

- Clubs 29 Lapsed 1
- Associate 11 Lapsed 7
- Individual 54 Lapsed 4 (2 deceased)

I have already raised with PICA my concerns about the drop in Associate Membership and this is being addressed. I have been assured that some payments to BCA from Associates are "in the post" so I shall be checking with the BCA Membership Secretary again at the end of November.

**Finances**

DCA's finances are in a healthy state, having received a £300 Training Grant from BCA and the remaining £150 payment due from the Natural England contract. The Projects Officer has paid out from his float for work on the Oxlow Stiles Project (approx. £159) and for fencing materials for the shaft on New Rake (approx. £134), leaving him with £132 in hand. This will shortly be "topped up" by £700 to enable him to pay for the Rowter Shaft project. We have also paid for copies of the 2nd. Edn. of the Manifold/Hamps Conservation Audit ready for sale - thanks to Martin Milner for arranging this.

Current Balances are:	Deposit a/c	£6478.87
	Current a/c	<u>£1186.15</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£7665.02</b>

*Jenny Potts, 19 Oct. 2007*

**Item 5.2 - CONSERVATION OFFICERS REPORT**

**PICA.**

Jenny myself and Bob attended a meeting of PICA on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Carleswark** has now been fixed and I have thanked Edale YHA for their stabilising work.

A new access agreement between the owners of **Bagshawe Cavern** and EPC is now in operation. Conservation interest is to be considered and routes tailored to avoid the more vulnerable areas. More details of the plan will be submitted to DW when available.

Dave Carlisle (mines inspector) had visited **Jugholes** and declared that no areas needed attention and hence the installation of FOUR bolts to protect the "bad step" could be put to Council. DW and Dave Carlisle both expressed concern at signs of increased "traffic" and vandalism at this site (see below).

Remedial work at **Nickergrove** has been consented by NE via DW and will be put in hand. The site can then be used by centres and hopefully take some pressure off nearby Carleswark.

The block in **Oxlow** entrance shaft is to be located and work put in hand.

**SUICIDE CAVE****SUICIDE CAVE INSPECTION**

On Thursday 5th July a small party (Dave Webb, DCA Conservation Officer; Pete Mellors, DCA Legal and Insurance Officer, and Mark Williams, PICA and Hollowford Centre), met with Chris Milner from the High Peak Office of the National Trust on site at Suicide Cave.

Following an inspection of the entrance chamber and Boulder Slope the following conclusions were reached:-

- 1) The small access point that runs beneath the choke from its base was found to have been blocked with very large boulders which would be extremely difficult if not impossible to remove by all normal means. This effectively rules out access to further reaches of the cave by casual or ill-equipped visitors.
- 2) Access beyond the Boulder Slope can now only be made by descending the 15ft pitch which requires specialist equipment normally possessed only by cavers, and who would be fully aware of the risks involved.
- 3) It was agreed that a further inspection of the lower route would be made in the autumn by a PICA appointed representative\* to assess the risks in this part of the cave for PICA - led parties.
- 4) There does not appear to be an easy solution to the problem of the cave threshold being used as a toilet and all practical alternatives were discussed and rejected on the grounds of cost and low priority.

\* Due to take place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2007

**WATER ICICLE**

I visited Mr Wells the tenant farmer at One Ash Grange on September 30<sup>th</sup> with Wayne to discuss the idea of improving ventilation at the site. (See Project Officers's report) I have prepared a document for Mr Wells on the history and exploration of the site as a gesture of goodwill.

**WATERWAYS SWALLET LID**

I have written to Andy Foster of the Keyhole CC offering advice on the design of a suitable replacement lid (based upon a similar one at Fourways) and material from stock. Andy wrote back on August 14<sup>th</sup> agreeing the design and saying he will get back to me when he has checked the measurements but I have heard nothing since.

**CLIFFHANGER EVENT at SHEFFIELD**

On Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup> I attended the SUSS led event which was declared to have been a great success believe despite the bad weather on Sunday.

**CAVE LIAISON MEETING July 10th**

Concerns over housing development on top of old Glebe Mine site in Eyam. Access to main shaft now blocked, denying access to inspect Moorwood Sough.

Grant for DCA/NE contract work confirmed at £2500!

Knotlow logger removed – believed that sampling will reveal no significant pollution issues.

Hungerhill Swallet. DW inspected and no further silting problems. NE to explore re-routing of road run-off drain.

Monitoring website set up and receiving favourable comments.

**SHAFT CAPPING GUIDELINES MEETING 31<sup>st</sup> July**

Final approval has been given to publish 3000 copies of the Guidelines which will be available to those with a direct interest in the mine capping process at launch on November 28<sup>th</sup> 2007. I have done my best to ensure that recreational caving is well represented and wherever possible access for cavers is to be considered at the time of capping. (by DCC)

**YOU'D'S LEVEL**

Following recent reports on increased pollution I have again visited the site with a representative from the EA. Results of analysis of the water samples will be available soon. Meanwhile the site is closed and the key will not be handed out at the PDMHS Museum.

**RIGS**

The Geodiversity Project is being progressed and I have ensured that cave sites (listed as RIGS) are now included.

**GRAFFITI**

Following the removal of spray-painted arrows in Devonshire and other places, and names in Youd's level, it was disappointing on a recent visit to discover numerous disfiguring black arrows scattered around Jugholes. Several have been "removed" but who would paint an arrow on the wall only 50m from a dead straight adit exit?

What is going on and why is there an increase in this vandalism? Also noted in Jugholes was the partial destruction of a fine developing false floor feature and the scratching over the top of some old miner's smoked graffiti. Makes you want to give up!

**ADOPT A CAVE**

Chris Howes has re-introduced the Adopt-a-Cave in the most recent edition of Descent. The following are listed for our local caves/mines and I would like to have any information as to the current status of this list. I fully support the scheme and should like to encourage a more widespread acceptance of the scheme in Derbyshire and would welcome any ideas as to how we can best achieve this.

<b>SITE</b>	<b>CLUB OR INDIVIDUAL ADOPTING</b>
Cumberland/Wapping, Rookery Mine/ Ashford Black Marble Mine.	Beyond Bounds.
Critchlow, Lathkill Head Cave	Cave and Crag
Streaks Pot	De Montfort UCC
Eldon Hole, Giant's Hole, Maskhill Mine, Oxlow Caverns	Eldon PC
Etches Cave	Iain Barker
Devonshire Caverns	Kingston –on - Hull CC
Brightgate, Great Masson Caverns, Tearsall Pipe Caverns	Masson Caving Group
Yoga Cave	Pitch Black CC
P8	Rubber Duck CC
Hillocks Mine, Water Icicle Close cavern	Sheffield Hallam UCC
Holme Bank Chert Mine	Stanley Head OEC
Peak Cavern	TSG

*Dave Webb, October 2007*

### **Item 5.3 - PROJECTS OFFICER'S REPORT**

The collapsed shaft on New Rake had a temporary stock fence put around it a couple of weekends ago by a team of five organized by me. This is to protect the landowner's livestock and stop any passers-by falling down it by accident. A full report will appear in Derbyshire Caver. Some signs still need to be purchased and erected, warning people of the deep mine shaft. I will be asking John Barnett to report this to Derbyshire County Council with a view to them re-capping it.

Nothing has been done on the markers on route to P8 yet.

Bob Dearman, Martyn Grayson and myself did a site visit and have worked out the plan for the recapping of Rowter Hole. We are planning to start this now in December because Martyn is away until the end of November. This will be done over four days.

Dave Webb and myself visited the farmer at One Ash Grange farm last month and we explained the situation regarding Water Icicle and why we are intending to locate the shaft in the woods. He is quite willing to let us locate this shaft, as long as any work we may carry out in the future in opening up this shaft is cleared with Chatsworth Estate and himself. Ralph Johnson and Crewe have said that they were going to undertake the radio locating of this shaft.

*Wayne Sheldon, 16 October 2007*

### **Item 5.5 - LEGAL & INSURANCE OFFICER'S REPORT**

#### **Liability Insurance**

I have heard nothing more from Nick Williams who promised to raise my concerns about "grey areas" in the National Policy document with the broker in August. I expect to discuss these points further with Nick in the hope of clarification in time for renewal of cover on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

#### **Suicide Cave**

I spent a morning here in July with Dave Webb, Mark Williams of PICA and Chris Milner of the National Trust discussing the state of the area reported as hazardous. We found the crawl under the boulder slope blocked by a substantial slab of rock, leaving the pitch at the head of the slope as the only way on into the rest of the cave. Legally, to my mind, neither DCA nor the NT has cause for concern if the cave stays this way, as the pitch lies way beyond the expected farthest point of casual entry and is a natural feature anyway.

#### **Water Icicle Close**

Work done here to open up a ventilation shaft would probably be on Chatsworth land. If negotiations with the tenant farmer have to involve Chatsworth at any stage, I have promised to assist in liaising if necessary.

#### **Garden Path Access**

In July I was involved in discussions with Iain Barker and Dave Webb to produce an access procedure designed to encourage more cavers to visit the cave for scientific purposes, as provided for in the licence from Chatsworth.

*Peter Mellors, 18 Oct. 2007*

### **Item 5.7 - DCA TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT**

#### **October 2007**

What a year, lost my wife, dad and dog ... what else will go wrong! My personal thanks go out to everyone at DCA for being patient with me, those who have phoned me, come round to get me drunk etc.. hopefully things should improve!

#### **Outdoors Show 2007**

The BCA caving stand at the Outdoor show in Birmingham looked fantastic. Jenny and Boyd were there (would they be anywhere else!) and volunteer cavers from all over the country. A big thank you to Chris Jewel for setting the event up and to Frank Bennett at Petzl for the stuff I gave away!..Not sure what will happen at next years show.

#### **DCA CAVERS WORKSHOPS 2008 at the Upper Limits Climbing Centre, Longnor.**

**Dates: Saturday & Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> 2008**

Always a great week end in the caving calendar and a brilliant opportunity to catch up with caving trends, techniques and equipment. How many Petzl Tikka XP's did I lose this year! Why not get a few friends together and book onto a session as a group? Usual stuff on offer from rope work, SRT introduction, SRT rigging, rescue etc.

Cheap Gear. If you have any unwanted caving related items to get shut of, please bring them along as we can flog them off for cash – paid directly to you! Make sure that you bring a 'wad' of cash with you if you intend to snap up a bargain or two!

#### **DCA SRT UNDERGROUND TRIP**

This day will be of an informal nature with emphasis on personal techniques improvement. The trip will be run by a CIC holder and all of the ropes etc will be provided. I will sponsor these trips with insurance cover and lend any kit that you need. These trips are not an introduction to SRT, however they are perfect for newcomers or old hands wishing to pick up on techniques etc.

**Date: Sunday January 13<sup>th</sup> 2008**

#### **SRT TRAINING COURSE**

There is a 2 day SRT training course for those who may not be able to get training through their clubs. I have some new Petzl toys to give away (or sell off depending on my mood swings!). There could be free camping available on this course.

**Date: Saturday & Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 2008**

#### **PRE - ASSESSMENT DAY FOR CAVE LEADERS**

An invaluable experience for any caver to go through an assessment procedure where you cannot fail!

This is an excellent opportunity for DCA members to test themselves out. There is never a formal charge for this day to DCA members, however I will be expecting a donation made payable to DCA's funds.

**Date: Sunday February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008**

#### **SRT RIGGING AND SRT RESCUE COURSE**

This Course is available only to SRT proficient people and it has limited places so please book early. I will apply for a grant for this so it could be a cheapie for you. First come first served!

**Date: Saturday & Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 2008**

**LEVEL 2 CAVE LEADERS WANTED**

All of you level 1's, get off your backsides as I need some level 2 leaders for a few days filming in April next year!

**LOCAL CAVE/MINE LEADER AWARD SCHEME**

The following are dates of BCA training courses and assessments running in the Peak District:

**Local Cave/Mine Leader Award Training (level 1)**

**Date: Monday & Tuesday December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 2007**

**Local Cave/Mine Leader Award Training (level 2)**

**Date: Monday & Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> 2007**

**Local Cave/Mine Leader Award Assessment (level 1, Module 1 cave core skills)**

Level 1 Cave Wednesday December 5<sup>th</sup> 2007 – Derbyshire

Level 1 Cave Tuesday December 11<sup>th</sup> 2007 – Derbyshire

Level 1 Cave Friday December 14<sup>th</sup> 2007 – Derbyshire

**Local Cave/Mine Leader Award Assessment (level 1, Module 1 mine transfer)**

Level 1 Mine Thursday December 6<sup>th</sup> 2007 – Derbyshire

Level 1 Mine Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup> 2007 – Derbyshire

**Local Cave/Mine Leader Award Assessment (level 2, Module 3 vertical skills)**

Level 2 Wednesday December 5<sup>th</sup> 2007 – Derbyshire

Level 2 Friday December 7<sup>th</sup> 2007 - Derbyshire

Level 2 Thursday December 13<sup>th</sup> 2007 – Yorkshire

**CAVE INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATE SCHEME**

I am in the process of setting up a mega CIC training course based in the Peak District with trips to Wales and Yorkshire. Mini bus transport is provided to all areas. May even take you out to Mallorca!

**DCRO FUND RAISING EVENING WITH WHYTESNAKE.**

On Saturday March 18th, Whitesnake are playing a special gig at the Greyhound Inn, Boundary, Woodville, South Derbyshire to raise funds for DCRO. This event will be busy so please get there before 8.00pm to get a seat etc.

*Nigel Atkins, 17 October 2007*

**Item 6 - BCA REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEETING 13 OCT. 2007**

The main point of interest to DCA members will be insurance rates for next year: the Caver rate goes up by £1 to £16 (for both DIMs and CIMs), the Non-caver rate remains the same. The special Student Caver rate of £8 covers students at university/college plus all U18 Club Members. All other rates remain the same for BCA.

The BCA Equipment Officer gave a detailed presentation, illustrated by slides & videos, showing work on P-anchors and possible alternative anchors being investigated currently by BCA's Equipment & Techniques Committee. There is a great deal of work being done on this and the experiments conclusively demonstrate the superiority of the DMM P-anchor system over all others, including the French anchor systems, which have been held up as a model by some.

*Jenny Potts, 19 Oct. 2007*