



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 10am, 23 February 2008, Monyash Village Hall

Present:

Clubs:

Chesterfield C. C.	M.Cope [MC]
Eldon Pothole Club	R.S.Dearman [BD]
Masson Caving Group	C.Broome [CB], P.Chandler [PC], D.Webb [DW],
Orpheus Caving Club	B.Potts [BP], Paul Lydon [PL], (K.Slatcher , J.Potts)
T. S. G.	M.Grayson [MG], W.Sheldon [WS]

Individual Members:

(R.S.Dearman) , T.Jackson [TJ], J.Langdon [JL], P.T.Mellors [PM], J.Potts [JP], (W.Sheldon), K.Slatcher [KS]

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME, ESTABLISH QUORUM:

1.1 **Welcome:** R.S.Dearman, DCA Chairman, welcomed members to the AGM and established that the meeting was quorate with 5 club represented and 5 individual members present..

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies recd. from: Officers: Nigel Atkins (Training Officer); Iain Barker (Access Officer); Dave Cowley (Equipment Officer); and from other members: Chesterfield C.C. (Frank Beasley); Individual Members: John Cordingley, W.Jennison, D.Wall.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETINGS:

3.1 **Annual General Meeting, 24 February 2007:** *(Previously circulated and on the DCA website; taken as read.)*

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 24 February 2007 be approved.

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

No matters arising from the minutes.

5. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

5.1 **Individual Member:** Simon Mee, prop. J.Potts, sec. W.Sheldon. *Agreed unanimously.*

6. OFFICERS' REPORTS: *(The Annual Officers' Reports and Accounts were tabled and would be included with the published Minutes in due course.)*

6.1 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: *(Written report tabled.)*

R.S.Dearman introduced his report and thanked all those involved for their work on behalf of DCA.

That the Chairman's Report be accepted. Prop. K.Slatcher, sec. W.Sheldon. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.2 SECRETARY'S REPORT: *(Written report tabled.)*

6.1.a **Handbook:** The Secretary thanked P.Mellors for information supplied for the Handbook. D.Webb said he would send the Secretary up to date information on SSSIs and RIGS for the Handbook.

6.1.c **National Caving Library and Archives:** JP explained her involvement in what was being proposed to make the Library accessible to all cavers; it was hoped that there would eventually be a catalogue on the web. She also gave some details of progress in sorting out the BCRA archives to make these accessible to cavers via the web. Members welcomed these initiatives.

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

6.3 TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS: *(Written report and accounts tabled.)*

6.3.a **Cave Discovery Fund:** JP said there had been approaches re. a grant but these had not been followed up. PM suggested that it needs advertising.

6.3.b **Deposit Account:** Noted that interest on the deposit account was substantial this year. JP said that we should shortly be receiving over £2000 grant from Natural England in respect of work done in SSSIs.

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

6.3.c **New Treasurer needed:** JP reminded members that she wished to stand down as DCA Treasurer in 2009 and would welcome approaches from someone interested in taking over so that they could work together to ensure a smooth handover. She would be willing to continue as Secretary for a little longer to enable the combined Secretary/Treasurer post to be split.

6.4 CONSERVATION OFFICER'S REPORT: *(Written report tabled.)*

6.4.a **Thanks:** A vote of thanks was proposed to DW for all his hard work over the years. Prop. CB, sec. JP. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.4.b **Owlet Hole:** DW reported that work had been completed on the access and a key was now held by the Mining Museum.

That the Conservation Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. P.Lydon, sec. C.Broome. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.4.c Conservation Officer's Supplementary Report: *(Written report tabled.)*

i **Graffiti in Jug Holes:** JP had mentioned this at the PICA meeting but the perpetrators were not known.

ii **Adopt-a-Cave:** JP had checked with Chris Howes and it appeared the DESCENT list had been created many years ago and not updated since. It was agreed to set up "Adopt-a-Cave, Peak District". The following Clubs had agreed to act: Eldon P.C. would adopt Bagshaw Cavern, etc., Orpheus C. C. would be asked by their Chairman, B.Potts, to adopt the Lathkill area, including Water Icicle and Knotlow.

iii **Jug Holes:** Noted that the lower gate on the adit should be checked to ensure it is shut after visiting. Certain nearby shafts also needed tops checking.

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

6.5 ACCESS OFFICER'S REPORT: (*Apologies sent; written report tabled.*)

6.5.a Holme Bank Chert Mine: PM noted that both locks had been smashed off and needed replacing. IB has this in hand.
That the Access Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. T.Jackson, sec. W.Sheldon. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.6 LEGAL & INSURANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: (*Written report tabled.*)

6.6.a Suicide Cave: JP reported that the lower boulder choke has now collapsed completely but the route over the top to the pitch is OK.
6.6.b P.L. Insurance: PM said that he had a meeting scheduled with BCA Insurance Manager to clarify some "grey areas".
That the Legal & Insurance Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. P.Lydon, sec. T.Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.7 PROJECTS OFFICER'S REPORT: (*Written report tabled.*)

6.7.a Thanks: DW asked for a vote of thanks to W.Sheldon for the excellent work he has done. *Agreed unanimously.*
6.7.b White River Series: Noted that White River Series in Peak is taped and this has helped its survival.
6.7.c Stoney Middleton Conservation Audit: Noted that the Audit is being carried out Mark Cope and is eligible for a Natural England grant.
That the Projects Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. D.Webb, sec. P.Mellors. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.8 TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT: (*Apologies sent; written report tabled.*)

6.8.a Report: NA had provided a very comprehensive report on his proposed training events for the coming year. It was agreed that Nigel is doing a really good job as Training Officer. BP noted that he was also present at the Outdoor Show on the BCA stand.
6.8.b Thanks: TJ asked for a vote of thanks to NA for all his work. *Agreed unanimously.*
That the Training Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. B.Potts, sec. T.Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.9 EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT: (*Apologies sent; written report tabled.*)

6.9.a Nicker Grove Mine: Noted 2 more Eco-anchors are required in addition to those already installed together with the cable-&-ring Y-hang. BD will liaise with Adam Evans.
6.9.b J.H. Eco-anchors required: Adam Evans would liaise over placing.
6.9.c Giants Hole: BD had installed Eco-anchors and a cable-&-ring Y-hang in the Wet Inlets in Giants.
6.9.d Other Bolting Projects: Noted that we had agreed previously that Winnatts Head Cave and the Filthy Five in Giants needed bolting.
6.9.e Checking/Testing Regime: PM queried whether there was still a recording system in place for regular checking and testing of existing Eco-anchors. It was confirmed that records are still being kept. PM noted that we required that there should be written confirmation each time a visual check is done and it should be clearly explained what this check implies.
That the Equipment Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. T.Jackson, sec. P.Lydon. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.10 ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S REPORT: (*Written report tabled.*)

No queries arising and CB was thanked for his comprehensive report.
That the Assistant Secretary's Report be accepted. Prop. T.Jackson, sec. K.Slatcher. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.11 PUBLICATIONS OFFICER: (*PL gave a verbal report.*)

6.11.a PL stated that the next Newsletter, no. 127, had been published but he was short of material for no. 128. He was now intending to set definite publication dates and deadlines for information. He thanked the usual contributors.
6.11.b PL noted that useful information on Derbyshire access was appearing on the UKcaving website so it was worthwhile contributing to this. JP said she already passed information to DCA's own webmaster and to the BCA website forum and would be grateful if PL could keep a watch on UKcaving for us.
That the Publications Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. T.Jackson, sec. W.Sheldon. *Agreed unanimously.*

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The following were elected unopposed:

Chairman:	R.S.Dearman,	Prop. B.Potts, Sec. C.Broome
Vice-Chairman:	T.Jackson,	Prop. P.Lydon, Sec. P.Chandler
Secretary:	J.Potts,	Prop. K.Slatcher, Sec. P.Lydon
Treasurer:	J.Potts,	Prop.T.Jackson, Sec. P.Chandler
Conservation Officer:	D.Webb,	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. C.Broome
Asst. Conservation Officer:	W.Sheldon,	Prop. D.Webb, Sec. B.Potts
Access Officer:	I.Barker,	Prop. P.Lydon, Sec. T.Jackson
Legal & Insurance Officer:	P.Mellors,	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. T.Jackson
Projects Officer:	M.Grayson,	Prop. W.Sheldon, Sec. J.Potts
Training Officer:	N.Atkins,	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. K.Slatcher
Equipment Officer:	D.Cowley,	Prop.J.Potts, Sec. B.Potts
Newsletter Editor:	P.Lydon,	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. K.Slatcher
Cave Registry Secretary:	J.Beck,	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Chandler
Assistant Secretary:	C.Broome,	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. B.Potts

8. ELECTION OF THREE ORDINARY MEMBERS OF THE CAVE DISCOVERY FUND PANEL:

Proposed by K.Slatcher, Sec. P.Lydon, that the existing members be re-elected.
Members of CDF Grants Panel: I.Barker, T.Jackson, B.Potts. Agreed unanimously.

9. BCA AGM - 5 APRIL 2008: OUTLINE OF BUSINESS AFFECTING DCA:

JP said that the Agenda was not yet available but that, as far as she knew, there were no proposals which would specifically affect DCA.

10. APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES/REPRESENTATIVES TO BCA AGM AND BCA COMMITTEES:

- 10.1 **DCA delegate to BCA AGM:** J.Potts was appointed. She reminded members that the meeting was open to any member of a member club as well as to Direct Individual Members and Club reps. BP said he would be present as Orpheus C.C. rep.
- 10.2 **DCA representative on BCA Council:** J.Potts was appointed.
- 10.3 **DCA representatives to BCA Special Committees:** The appropriate DCA Officer would attend C&A Committee [D.Webb], Training Committee [Nigel Atkins], Equipment Committee [Dave Cowley] and Legal & Insurance Committee [Pete Mellors].
- 10.4 **DCA representatives to other BCA working groups:** P.Mellors would liaise with the Radon Working Group and it was noted that PICA might have some input to this also. J.Beck would be the contact for the Cave Registry.

11. APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES/REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

- 11.1 **SSSI Liaison Group:** DW and WS were appointed; **Underground Conservation Forum:** D.Webb was appointed, WS and JP would also attend.
- 11.2 **LCMLA Panel:** D.Webb and K.Slatcher were appointed.
- 11.3 **PICA:** D.Webb and J.Potts were appointed.
- 11.4 **Derbyshire Sport:** J.Potts was appointed.

12. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR MEETINGS FOR THE COMING YEAR:

- 12.1 **DCA AGM 2009:** 10am. Saturday, 21 February 2009, at Monyash Village Hall.
- 12.1 **DCA Council Meetings 2008:** All at 10am on Saturdays at Monyash Village Hall: JP would organise meetings for late April, late June and October/November and would notify members as soon as this was done.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

13.1 Caves of the Peak District & DCA Handbook:

- a. Caves of the Peak District: BD reported that JB and IB were well advanced with final stages. BD is liaising with BCRA re. publication so that all funding is kept within caving.
- b. DCA Handbook: TJ reported that the text was almost complete but waiting for final details for Bagshaw: the method of proof of insurance has still to be agreed. PL said he had the Rigging Guide section in hand. JP required both sections to be complete to see how much space was available for additional information.

13.2 Sheffield Cliffhanger and Derbyshire Try Caving Day:

Mark Cope and Paul Chandler offered to organise the Cliffhanger session with help offered by other clubs and individuals.

13.3 Matters of Immediate Import arising from Council Meeting of 20 Oct. 2007:

There were none.

13.4 ARCUS:

DW and WS would liaise over the ARCUS project on cave archaeology.

13.5 FSEU EuroSpeleo Cave protection initiative:

DW would liaise on this.

13.6 Otter Hole, Buxton area:

Reported that building on the site had already started and that voids had begun to appear. We would watch progress with interest.

13.7 P.8 Car Park Shafts:

The car park used by visitors to P.8 had been extended and 2 shafts had been found and capped with manhole covers. 10 days ago another shaft had appeared with a level leading off under the route used by cars to enter the car park. So there were now 4 shafts in this small area with levels leading off. BD had met with the Derbyshire County Council person responsible for the car park, Mike Wright, and all new shafts had now been capped but they need surveying. TJ noted that he had found no records of any shafts during his researches of the car park area.

13.8 Sponsored Titan Trip:

DW reported that a caver, Steve Thompson, was doing a Titan trip and being sponsored for a heart charity.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 1.54pm.

J.E.Potts, Recorder

APPENDED TO THESE MINUTES AND FORMING PART OF THEM ARE:

THE DCA OFFICERS' ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2007

THE DCA ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DEC. 2007.