



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 21st. February 2009,
10am, Monyash Village Hall

Present:

Clubs:

Chesterfield C. C.	Frank Beasley [FB]
Eldon P. C.	Mark Harrison [MH], (Bob Dearman)
Masson C. G.	Christine Wilson [CW], Chris Broome [CB], Paul Chandler [PC]
Orpheus C. C.	Boyd Potts [BP] (Jenny Potts)
Peak District Mines H. S.	Dave Webb [DW]

Individual Members:

Terry Jackson [TJ], Pete Mellors [PM], Jenny Potts [JP], Bob Dearman [BD]

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 clubs represented and 4 individual members present.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies received from: Officers: Nigel Atkins (Training Officer), Iain Barker (Access Officer), Jules Barrett (Equipment Officer), Martyn Grayson (Projects Officer), Paul Lydon (Publications Officer). Associate Member: Burton V.T. (G.Marshment). Individual Members: Elaine Hill, Karen Slatcher, David Wall. Prospective Individual Member: Darren Thomas.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING:

3.1 **Annual General Meeting, 23 February 2008:** *(Previously circulated and on the DCA website; taken as read.)*
That the Minutes of the AGM of 23 February 2008 be approved.
Prop. B. Potts, Sec. T.Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

4.1 13.6 **Otter Hole:** DW reported that work had started on the housing project in the affected area but appeared to have been suspended recently. It was accepted that there was no way of stopping the development.

4.2 13.7 **P8 Car Park Shafts:** These have now been capped but can be accessed by raising the manhole cover lids. So far nothing extensive has been found but there is a blocked level which might be pushed.

5. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

5.1 **Club:** Pegasus Club: the club has rejoined BCA for 2009 as were accepted as DCA Club Members.

5.2 **Individual Member:** Darren Thomas, prop. by J.Potts. Accepted as an Individual Member.

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: *(BD gave a verbal report.)*

BD said that DCA had had a very active year; much good work had been done at Bagshaw Cavern and other sites and he thanked all those involved in the work. He had also been working on a revision of the BCA Eco-anchor Installation Document on behalf of BCA and this was now in draft form, ready to go to the next meeting of the BCA Equipment & Techniques Committee.

That the Chairman's Report be accepted. Prop. T.Jackson, Sec. C.Broome. *Agreed unanimously.*

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

6.2.a **Email Communications:** JP emphasised that, although the use of email saved DCA a considerable amount of money on postage, it was not infallible and if urgent matters were being dealt with it was best to phone, even if this was to check receipt of an email.

6.2.b **Cliffhanger 2009:** JP stated that we had been asked to put on a stand/display at the 2009 event. This would be discussed in detail at the Council Meeting following the AGM.

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

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

6.3.a **Account details:** JP highlighted the differences in income and expenditure between this year's and last year's accounts and explained the reasons for this.

6.3.b **Bagshaw Cavern Expenditure:** It was noted that the Cavern is once again being visited regularly by cavers and instructed groups and the money received from access fees is being ploughed back into improved facilities for visitors. The access agreement is between Eldon P.C. and the Cavern leaseholders and a condition of access is that all visitors have to demonstrate that they have P.L. insurance.

6.3.c **Cave & Mine Conservation Audit for the Manifold & Hamps Valleys, 2nd. Edn:** PM suggested that an approach be made to teashops, etc. in the Manifold Valley to see if they would be interested in selling this DCA publication. JP would look into this.

6.3.d **New DCA Treasurer needed:** JP reminded members that she wished to hand over as Treasurer and would welcome an approach from anyone interested.

6.3.e **BCA funding contribution:** JP emphasised the advantages DCA has gained from the switch to receiving the majority of its funding via BCA, instead of the former system of clubs paying to be members of DCA.

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

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

- 6.4.a **Adopt-a-Cave scheme:** PM commented that the Adopt-a-Cave scheme seems to be completely separate from the SSSI Cave Monitoring scheme. DW commented that there was evidence that it is useful.
- 6.4.b **Festival of Outdoor Learning:** TJ asked about this event. DW reported that DCA had put on an extensive stand display at the event with illustrations of conservation work done by DCA. This had attracted favourable comment from Event organisers and participants.
- 6.4.c **Youds Level:** PC reported that action was already being taken by relevant authorities to clean up the pollution in Youds Level.
- 6.4.d **Paper Pulp Problem:** DW reported that reports had been received of serious pollution in the sumps and streamway of Peak Cavern which is scheduled as an SSSI. Subsequently the Peak National Park Authority have withdrawn the licence permitting paper pulp waste to be dumped on the surface in the vicinity of Hazard mine and have ordered the excess to be removed. Natural England has been made aware of the problem.
- 6.4.e **Hungerhill Swallet Pollution:** DW noted that the problem of polluted drainage from the road going into Hungerhill Swallet had been brought to the attention of Natural England by Chesterfield C.C. and it was hoped N.E. would bring their influence to bear on the appropriate highway authority.
- 6.4.f **Knotlow Cavern:** PM asked about the state of Knotlow and DW reported that the former persistent pollution / bad air problems seemed to have ceased, although a watch continues to be kept on the situation. A new Log Book is ready to be taken into the system for those visiting to record observations. Noted that, following the cessation of the pollution / bad air problems, parts of the system are now to be used by outdoor centres.

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

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

- 6.5.a **Giants Hole:** JP noted that the Giants Hole problem had been widely discussed but no solution had been arrived at.
- 6.5.b **Long Rake Mine, Bradwell:** CB queried the situation. JP noted that it had been stated publicly, in all sources likely to be consulted by cavers, that Long Rake Mine, Bird Mine and New Venture Mine were closed for the foreseeable future due to a potential risk of encountering carbon monoxide. The exact source of the CO had not been established but seemed most likely to be related to the quarrying operations, which were continuing.
- 6.5.c **Holme Bank Chert Mine:** FB queried the situation at Holme Bank. Noted that the landowners were Chatsworth Estates and the lessee was Mr. Oldfield. The ongoing problems of broken locks could be down to local youngsters or to cavers, so all DCA could do was to continue to monitor the situation and keep replacing locks.
- 6.5.d **Waterways Swallet lid:** BP will check the situation and, if the lid has not yet been installed, Orpheus C.C. will install it.

That the Access Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. T.Jackson, sec. C.Broome. *Agreed unanimously.*

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

- 6.6.a **Garden Path:** DW reminded members that Chatsworth Estates require copies of reports of visits and scientific work. An SSSI monitoring form will be completed for each visit.
- 6.6.b **Liability Insurance:** PM has confirmed with BCA's Insurance Manager that the wording of the BCA policy ensures that officers, trustees and volunteers are covered under the policy while working on behalf of BCA.

That the Legal & Insurance Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. T.Jackson, sec. B.Potts. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.7 PUBLICATIONS OFFICER: *(Apologies sent; written report tabled.)*

That the Publications Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. P.Chandler, sec. T.Jackson. *Agreed unanimously.*

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

- 6.8.a **Dave Cowley:** BD thanked Dave Cowley, the previous DCA Equipment Officer, for all his hard work in proof testing 300+ Eco-anchors in Derbyshire and reporting on this to the BCA Equipment & Techniques Committee. As a consequence of his work it had been agreed that continuing proof testing of installed Eco-anchors was not necessary after an initial test on installation; instead an underground test-bed for anchors had been set up in Bagshaw Cavern. BD and Les Sykes have collaborated in writing a new 'bible' for anchor installers and BD is now the approved Trainer for anchor installers in the Peak District. BD expressed his thanks to Jules Barrett for agreeing to take over as DCA Equipment Officer when Dave Cowley had to stand down.
- 6.8.b **New Anchor installations:** JB had installed the final anchors required in Nickergrove Mine, the two asked for by PICA in Jugholes and had replaced the failed spits in Oxlow.
- 6.8.c **Hydrajaws Tester:** BD reported that the Hydrajaws tester needed to be recalibrated. *Agreed that DCA would fund this.*
- 6.8.d **J. H. Mine:** It appears that new anchors would be needed at the top of Bitch Pitch following recent collapses. There may also be a need to put in stabilizing bars and this would be checked. *Agreed that DCA would install new anchors, etc. on Bitch Pitch, as required.*
- 6.8.e **Earth Leakage discoveries:** *Agreed that DCA would install any necessary anchors and a cable-&-ring pull-through.*
- 6.8.f **Moorfurlong Mine:** MH queried whether Eco-anchors were needed at the top of the shafts. Also noted that the 12ft. climb needed safeguarding and might need Eco-anchors installed to avoid the 'deads'. *Agreed to authorise JB to go ahead with any anchors and safeguarding required.*
- 6.8.g **Garden Path:** At Iain Barker's request, J.R.Johnson had reported on the anchors, rigging, etc. in the Garden Path shaft and IB had forwarded the report to JP for the AGM. BD and BP had inspected the site recently and were able to comment on JRJ's recommendations, which were read out and discussed paragraph by paragraph:
- ¶2, entrance shaft - 2 spits and hanger which possibly need replacing by a new Eco-anchor: BD and BP confirmed that, in their opinion, there was no rub point, they recommended both spits should be removed and no Eco-anchor placed.
- ¶3, 2nd. pitch - possible deviation and calcited jammed boulder: BD and BP confirmed that, in their opinion, no resin anchor was needed as the chockstone is solidly in place and can be used for the deviation.
- ¶4, near lowest wooden platform - possible removable of one anchor in suspect rock and re-bolting: BD confirmed that all bolts in this area were OK when tested by DC with the Hydrajaws so no re-bolting was necessary.

¶5, wooden platform- possible removal of this altogether: BD and BP felt that the platform made access more 'comfortable' for cave scientists who were not entirely confident at tricky SRT changeovers; they recommended that the platform should stay but be inspected regularly.

Agreed to accept the recommendations made by Bob Dearman and Boyd Potts re. Garden Path rigging.

That the Access Officer's Report be accepted. Prop. B.Potts, sec. C.Broome. *Agreed unanimously.*

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

6.9.a Noted that all appeared to be going well with DCA Training and Nigel Atkins' efforts were much appreciated. Nigel had produced a programme of events for the coming months and JP would send this to members as a separate 'Training Events' document.

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

6.10 ASSISTANT SECRETARY / PLANNING LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT: (*Written report tabled.*)

6.10.a **Tearsall Application:** CB commented that it appeared this application may be part of a 'deal' with the planning authorities by which work at the less damaging Tearsall site is agreed in return for giving up rights to Longstone Edge.

6.10.b **Derbyshire County Council:** CB noted that we were now on the list of DCC's 'consultees' over planning applications.

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

6.11 PROJECTS OFFICER'S REPORT: (*Apologies sent; no written report tabled.*)

6.11.a **Report:** BD and JP noted that the Projects Officer, Martyn Grayson, was under considerable pressure at work and had not had time to produce a written report, although he was continuing to carry out projects on DCA's behalf. He had given a very comprehensive verbal report at the November Council Meeting and JP would summarise this as his Annual Report.

6.11.b **Gautries Side Shaft Clearance:** Noted that MG had asked for volunteers to help complete this major project on the weekend following the AGM. (The first part of the project had been carried out in appalling weather conditions during the previous weekend.) Noted also that Wayne Sheldon would be standing down as Assistant Conservation officer but would assist MG in completing the paperwork for this project.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Noted that Wayne Sheldon wished to stand down as Assistant Conservation Officer and he was thanked for his past contribution.

The following were elected unopposed:

Chairman:	R.S.Dearman,	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Mellors
Vice-Chairman:	T.Jackson,	Prop. B.Potts, Sec. C.Broome
Secretary:	J.Potts,	Prop. P.Mellors, Sec. F.Beasley
Treasurer:	J.Potts,	Prop. C.Broome, Sec. T.Jackson
Conservation Officer:	D.Webb,	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. B.Potts
Asst. Conservation Officer:	C. Wilson,	Prop. D.Webb, Sec. T.Jackson
Access Officer:	I.Barker,	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Mellors
Projects Officer:	M.Grayson,	Prop. D.Webb, Sec. T.Jackson
Legal & Insurance Officer:	P.Mellors,	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Chandler
Equipment Officer:	J.Barrett,	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. T.Jackson
Training Officer:	N.Atkins,	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Chandler
Publications Off. /		
	Newsletter Editor: P.Lydon,	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. P.Chandler
Cave Registry Secretary:	J.Beck,	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. T.Jackson
Assistant Secretary /		
	Planning Liaison: C.Broome,	Prop. J.Potts, Sec. D.Webb

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

Proposed by J.Potts, Sec. C.Broome, that the existing members be re-elected.

Members of CDF Grants Panel: I.Barker, T.Jackson, B.Potts. Agreed unanimously.

9. BCA AGM – 28 March 2009: Outline of business affecting DCA.

9.1 **British Caving Library:** JP tabled for members' attention the Business Plan proposal to be put to the BCA AGM, that BCA be asked to help with funding the British Caving Library, which had been installed in premises at Glutton Bridge in July 2008.

JP explained the progress which had already been made and the funding so far. BCRA had funded storage facilities for 3 years; it has already spent in excess of £25,000 from its own funds in the first year of operation of the new Library at Glutton Bridge but cannot continue to provide funding at this level indefinitely.

Grant aid was being sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund, but this is only available to fund work on archive material and a condition of the grant is that such material is placed in a suitable secure, climate-controlled store. Archive material is being catalogued by volunteers and the catalogue is being made available on line; BCRA has already arranged for this material to go on indefinite loan to British Geological Survey, where it would be digitised and made available to all cavers in due course.

Many volunteers had been involved in cataloguing and sorting material, the installation of the Library in its present premises and continued to work towards achieving a full-scale library and information service of use to both cavers and other interested parties. Equipment and material have been donated and donations of collections of caving material, including photos, are increasing. Requests to the Library for information are increasing as people become aware of its existence. The Library at Glutton Bridge also has potential for use as a centre for scientific fieldwork since it is on the edge of an SSSI containing sites of great speleological and hydrological interest.

It was agreed that DCA would support the proposal that BCA assist in funding the British Caving Library.

- 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 representatives. 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 [Bob Dearman and Jules Barrett] 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:** D.Webb and Christine Wilson were appointed; **Underground Conservation Forum:** D.Webb was appointed, CW and JP would also attend.
- 11.2 **PICA:** D.Webb and J.Potts were appointed.
- 11.3 **Derbyshire Sport:** J.Potts was appointed.
- 12. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR MEETINGS FOR THE COMING YEAR:**
- 12.1 **DCA AGM 2010:** 10am. Saturday, 13th February 2010, at Monyash Village Hall.
- 12.2 **DCA Council Meetings 2009:** All at 10am on Saturdays at Monyash Village Hall: The first Council Meeting would follow immediately after this AGM. JP would organise 2 further meetings for 13th. June and 31st. October 2009.
- 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**
- 13.1 Caves of the Peak District & DCA Handbook:**
- 13.1.a **Caves of the Peak District:** Iain Barker had reported that the text of CoPD was now complete and he was investigating potential commercial publishers.
- 13.1.b **DCA Handbook - "The Peak District Access and Rigging Guide":** Terry Jackson was continually updating access information to be ready for publication; Paul Lydon had supplied a set of rigging topos; Jenny Potts would complete additional information required and it was hoped to arrange printing to coincide with the release of CoPD.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.42pm.

J.E.Potts, Recorder

APPENDED TO THESE MINUTES AND FORMING PART OF THEM ARE:

THE DCA OFFICERS' ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2008

THE DCA ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DEC. 2008.