

# South & Mid Wales Cave Rescue Team

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018

**Present:** Gary Mitchell, Jen Hill, John Roe, Paul Taylor, Toby Dryden, Steffan Davies, Peter Dennis, Keith Goodhead, Sue Goodhead, Fred Levett, Kevin Munn, Vince Allkins, Gareth Davies, Lisa Boore, Mark Morgan, Tom Foord, Sharon Smith, Malcolm Reid, Graham Christian, Richard Hill, Howard Dare, David Mullin, Piers Hallihan, Jonathan Jones, Paul Tarrant, Matt Woodfield, Bob Hall, Brian Jopling, Clark Friend, Gary Evans, Kate Humphries, Dafydd Morris-Jones, Malcolm Stewart, Helen Stewart, David Coulson, Ali Garman, Spencer Drew, Matt St. Clair, Megan Gorry, Dan Thorne, Bernard Charlesworth, Linda Wickham.

**Chaired by:** Gary Mitchell

- 1. Welcome** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Apologies for Absence:** Idris Williams, Jules Carter, Lisa Williams, Pete Hobson, Gary Jones, Tom Williams, Pete Francis, Claire Vivian, Richard Smith, Ruth Allen, Leigh Davies, Clinton Small, Jason Williams, Simon Pinnell.
- 3. Chairman – Gary Mitchell**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to once again work with the Team as Chair. It has been a busy year in many respects with some highs and real lows to work through.

I can honestly say there have been huge amounts of work and progress going on behind the scenes by the Executive Committee, much of it unnoticed and unrewarded. I don't have the space here to thank them all individually, so will do it en masse. It has been a pleasure to work with such a diverse and dynamic group who are all passionate about the Team and the role(s) they perform within it.

The year has been marred by the sad loss of two very long-standing members of the Team. Clive Edwards and John Lister both passed away in April leaving a big dent in the Teams' morale, but as is ever the case in the caving community, their families were supported and will continue to be so. This year the team hosted the bi-annual Cave Rescue Conference and over 80 people attended the informative workshops, lectures and underground elements of the weekend. It was a great chance to catch up with our wider Cave Rescue community and as usual the social aspects of the weekend will be remembered for many years to come. I know it took a lot of organising but it was worth it.

We have been kept quite busy with call outs (although very few of them requiring much in the way of large resources of people and equipment). Most have passed well under the radar of the majority of people, but there has been one notable exception this year which has given us plenty to learn from as we go forward. Our training schedule has been well supported, with over 40 people on some of the practices, and once again many members of our neighbouring teams have joined in on these.

There are a couple of key areas we have been working on over the last year or two that need a special mention here. Firstly SARCALL, a web based system which enables teams to be alerted to incidents from a number of different users (Police, Fire and other teams), but perhaps more importantly there are a number of applications that can assist with dealing with an incident (mapping software, record keeping, asset planning etc.) The Wardens and key members of the Exec. have been testing its use, learning more and more about its capabilities and possible pitfalls. I'm pleased to announce that the Exec. has passed a motion to move to the next level in our adoption plan for SARCALL and we have now begun the process of using it as our preferred method of call out from the Police forces that are operating it. It is certainly feasible that within the year we will be using it for full Team call out purposes.

Secondly you will note some proposed constitutional changes within the papers for the AGM. This has come about as the Team have rightfully been challenged on a number of aspects of the current constitution. Upon taking a full review of it and gaining some outside advice it became apparent that we needed to add some clarity to it. At the same time as it has not been amended since 2010 we have taken the chance to tidy it up a little. Please take the time to review the proposed changes and I hope the motion is carried to adopt the changes.

Our Team remains in good operational health and I'm grateful for everyone's help in achieving this status. I have been in the role of Chairperson for two years now and I am stepping down from this position at this AGM. I will of course still be part of the Executive and therefore be able to work with the in-coming chairperson should they need my assistance.

Thanks again to every contributor to the Team

Gary Mitchell

The Chairman asked for a minute's silence to remember Clive Edwards and John Lister.

**Acceptance of report**      **Proposed**      Brian Jopling      **Seconded**      Dafydd Morris-Jones

#### 4. Secretary - Sue Goodhead

2017 saw SMWCRT attending 8 incidents, an increase on last year.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Details</b>
20/1/17	Daren Cilau	Group of 5 cavers in Daren Cilau. Had set a callout time but a parent panicked late evening and phoned the police. Party exited the cave well within their time, unaware that Rescue had been called. 12 members were involved, 4 onsite.
21/1/17	OFD1 to Top	Overdue - Group of 4 females (inexperienced) and a 1 male leader on a through trip. The girls became very tired (took 5 hours to reach Diver's Pitch), lights were fading, but trip continued. Route not known very well, not able to exit via Cwm Dwr as this way not known and no survey. Missed exit route in Salubrious and were waiting at Trident and Judge when found. Warmed by hot drinks and food and helped to exit. 25 members involved / on standby.
22/7/17	Near Prokofiev Series OFD2	Trapped - Group of 1 male and 2 females going towards Prokofiev Series, 1 female went through narrow area then the second female became trapped by her knee so blocking the exit of the other. Male exited to raise alarm. Small cavers mobilised, eventually the trapped female was freed and exited under her own steam. 29 on site / standby.
6/8/17	Dog in Mine shaft, Hirnant, Oswestry	Callout came via a circuitous route from South Wales Police, then CBMRT handed over the incident to the Team. Mid Wales Team members despatched but as they were about 20 mins. from the site they discovered that both NWCRO (North Wales Cave Rescue Organisation) and NEWSAR (North East Wales Search and Rescue) had been called; the latter had completed the rescue before SMWCRT arrived.

23/9/17	Round Trip in OFD1	Overdue – 2 male cavers on a round trip. Water levels were underestimated and they were slow on the trip as they had to return via the Dry route. Party exited whilst Rescue Team was organising the Search parties. 23 members on site / standby.
14/10/17	OFD2 round trip via Shatter Pillar	Lost and overdue – Party of 6 students (1 leader and 5 inexperienced) whose leader took an incomplete copy of the survey with him. One member had a panic attack over traverses and took time to be persuaded to return over them when it was discovered this was the incorrect route. They then became lost in Salubrious. Eventually they exited and were given hot drinks and food which had been sent up to Top entrance before they walked back down. 15 members involved
22/10/17	Dog in rift, Mardy Mountain	South Wales Police contacted CBMRT then the Wardens were alerted via SARCALL by CBMRT. No detailed location was given to Team members travelling to the area. Dog retrieved by CBMRT.
14/11/17	Dog in rift, Blaina Mountain	SWFRS (South Wales Fire and Rescue Service) were alerted to a lost dog on morning of 13 <sup>th</sup> . They located the dog but having tried to retrieve her they were unable to by nightfall. They returned next morning to try again but SMWCRT were only called in at late morning. Despite the best efforts of those team members who attended, including the bravery of one member who spent a considerable time lowered down in an 8" rift, the dog could not be rescued. Owner and community very grateful for Team's efforts.

In addition to the above, the Team was aware of the following incidents which did not result in a Callout:-

- April, (heads up using SARCALL) for a group marginally overdue on a Cwm Dwr to OFD1 trip.
- October, there was another alert when the party was overdue on a digging trip in Agen Allwedd.
- October, on a Freshers' weekend, one party tried to complete the Cwm Dwr to Top trip, but realising that the group were not able to complete this due to water levels, their leader took the group safely out through Cwm Dwr.
- Same weekend a party leader on a trip in OFD 1 via dry route and back the same way changed his mind and decided to exit via the Streamway. Having become lost twice he and his group were lead out of the cave by a more experienced group. This could have provided a challenge to searchers as the information on the ticket wouldn't have been correct.
- November, we were contacted via Facebook about a seal pup trapped near Aberavon Beach. Assistance was offered but not required.

There have been a number of e mails answered and requests for members of the Team to attend events. There have been frequent emails from BCRC, MREW and other organisations with whom we have links. Other events, such as BCRC ResCon at Penwyllt, are covered in the relevant Officers' reports.

I am willing to continue as Secretary next year, but would equally be happy for someone else to take on the role with any support they required, or for someone to shadow me and discover what is involved.

Once the amendment to the detail in the 22/10 Dog rescue had been made,

**Acceptance of report**      **Proposed**      Spencer Drew      **Seconded**      Kate Humphries

#### **4. Acceptance of the 2017 AGM minutes**

No amendments

**Proposed** Fred Levett

**Seconded** Brian Jopling

#### **6. Matters Arising**

##### **BCRC**

Gary Mitchell informed the meeting of the background to the current situation regarding BCRC, that a letter had been sent from SMWCRT to the BCRC Exec. expressing concern and the reply had been very delayed. There was some discussion at this point and then the meeting was informed that the current BCRC chairman had resigned with immediate effect. The UKSAR conference might provide an opportunity to discuss the future which would be a challenging one over the next year. The Team is willing to help but the question is how best to do this?

Graham Christian stated that as one of the major Rescue Teams we ought to be very involved and he felt that the BCRC AGM should have strong support from SMWCRT. There would be opportunities over the AGM weekend around the workshops and meeting for discussions.

Brian Jopling's opinion was that BCRC are being treated as a team rather than a National body by MREW and the Council should receive our support.

Gary Evans agreed saying there needed to be a strong BCRC whether within MREW or as a separate entity

Spencer Drew felt that BCRC could end up being a "specialist group" within MREW and the disarray over the last year had been used to push this forward.

Gary Mitchell stated that we needed guidance / documentation from BCRC. CR is a necessity not a sport.

Peter Dennis pointed out that if BCRC is lost then the links with Scotland and Ireland would be lost too.

Paul Taylor reflected on the difficulties of SARA who had been told that since they don't do enough rescues they cannot be a team. CR may not be able to sustain the level of requirement that MR will request.

Dafydd Morris-Jones asked if finances were a problem and should we pay more to BCRC? He was informed that more money would not solve the current issues.

#### **7. Officers' and Auditor's Reports**

##### **Treasurer - Spencer Drew**

Donations are higher due to legacy receipts. Grant applications should be resolved by next April. Donation box receipts are up too. Financial report for 2017 on the following page.

No further questions

Spencer Drew

ACA DipPFS BSc CII CertPFS(DM)

**Acceptance of report Proposed** Matt St. Clair

**Seconded** John Roe

## South & Mid Wales Cave Rescue Team

### Draft accounts for presentation to the Annual General Meeting, 21 January 2018

#### Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31 December 2017

		<u>2017</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
		£	£	£
<b><u>Income</u></b>	Donations	12,525		4,960
	Fundraising	879		1,817
	Grants	2,845		2,845
	1st Aid Courses	620		0
	Interest	11		44
	BCRC Rescon	<u>3,697</u>		<u>0</u>
			20,577	9,666
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	Equipment	4,376		2,261
	Medical & Food	4,403		1,687
	Vehicle	345		738
	Headquarters	2,159		1,105
	Administration	220		706
	1st Aid Courses	985		0
	BCRC Rescon	4,150		0
	Other Courses & Meetings	<u>229</u>		<u>0</u>
			16,867	6,497
<b><u>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</u></b>			<u>3,710</u>	<u>3,169</u>

#### Balance Sheet at 31 December 2017

		<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
		£	£
<b><u>Assets</u></b>	Barclays Bank Current Account	5,416	6,717
	Barclays Bank Deposit Account	0	0
	Vehicle Replacement Fund (Scottish Widows Acc)	16,020	11,009
	Accumulated Funds & Total Cash at Bank	<u>21,436</u>	<u>17,726</u>

Note 1 These accounts will be audited and re-presented to the Team at the next AGM.

Note 2 Grants monies from 2017 applications should be received by April 2018. This grant money will hopefully offset some or all of the £453 BCRC Rescon deficit, cover all of the 1st Aid course expenditure for the year and some of the medical costs for the year.

Note 3 Donations for the year are a lot higher due to one off amounts received in relation to bereavements and a charity tax reclaim from changes in the donation rules.

Note 4 The headquarters costs are up due to the one off refurbishments and the fundraising is only down due to no auction this year but up on 2016 which is encouraging.

## **Auditor**

Leighton Thomas had checked the accounts for the years ending 2016 and 2017 and signed them off. He offered to stay as the Auditor. Spencer Drew may look for an auditor closer to Cardiff as LT has moved some distance away.

**Acceptance of report**      **Proposed.**      Megan Gorry

**Seconded**      Mark Morgan

## **First Aid Officer Report - Jen Hill**

November 2017

Rescues & Practices

Another year has passed without the need for medical assistance underground and although this is great news for cavers it does mean that our advanced first aiders rely on the medical based scenarios within our rescue practices to sharpen their skills.

This prompted the creation of an underground training first aid kit, within which are the usual bandages and dressings, as well as 'fake' medication in the form of mints for tablets and sodium chloride for injecting into an orange. Previously first aiders have verbally communicated what they would use in a particular scenario, but this new method allows the first aider to act out each element of a medical scenario and gain confidence in doing so.

The training first aid kit was trailed at the Mines Rescue Practice back in September and proved successful. The September practice also encompassed a selection of medical scenarios which allowed more than one advanced first aider to apply their knowledge as well as provide Surface Control with an opportunity to apply a triage system.

Controlled Drugs

In order to comply with the regulations for storing Controlled Drugs we have developed a Safe Operating Procedure document as well as installing a new door lock on the first aid room in the rescue stores.

I am happy to stand as First Aid Officer for 2018.

Jen Hill

No further questions.

**Acceptance of report**      **Proposed**      Gareth Davies

**Seconded**      Megan Gorry

## **First Aid Training Co-ordinator Report – Gary Evans**

Following a considerable number of changes to the Advanced First Aid Training course, to both modernise the course and to comply with last year's MREW changes, we were able to deliver a very successful Advanced First Aid Course in June 2017. Over a long weekend, we were able to train 7 team members from SMWCRT, 4 from Derbyshire CRO, 3 from GCRG, 1 from NWCRO and 1 from Midlands CRO.

This 2018 course and future Advanced First Aid courses will be delivered in partnership with Derbyshire CRO and Team members can attend a course in the area that works best for them.

We are always keen to get new Team Members with an interest in First Aid involved by putting themselves forward to undertake the Advanced First Aid course, so for those that want to renew and those that want to get involved for the first time, the agreed dates for the next two courses are:

- 29, 30 June, 1st July 2018 - Penwyllt

- 28, 29, 30 June 2019 - Derbyshire

Note that the first day for each course is an evening session only.

We have some further changes and improvements to implement for the 2018 course and these will be finalised and implemented in time for the course at the end of June

I have also managed to find places for team members that have approached me for basic first aid training in courses that I have been running and 6 team members have been trained on two day basic first aid courses in the last year.

As always, if you are interested in receiving First Aid training at any level, would like a chance for a First Aid refresher, or would like to help with delivery as a volunteer casualty, please do get in touch with me.

This has been a busy year for the SMWCRT Medical Group and I would like to thank all those who have given their time to moving this all forward and for their ongoing commitment to deliver excellent Advanced First and Casualty Care Training to Cave Rescuers from SWMCRT and our partners from other Cave Rescue Teams.

Gary Evans

First Aid Training Coordinator

Warden, SMWCRT

Keith Goodhead asked about the email received from the BCRC Medical Officer which stated that all rescuers should have a basic First Aid certificate. Gary Evans explained that this was MREW policy and for CR was not mandatory but advisory.

Megan Gorry asked about First Aid for child casualties and would there be a need for a stretcher for children? This could be looked at in the future.

Paul Taylor stated that GCRG had received Libor funding to enhance the numbers with basic low level First Aid.

No further questions.

**Acceptance of report**      **Proposed**      Keith Goodhead      **Seconded**      Tom Foord

### **Communications Officer's Report for 2018 AGM**

There isn't too much to report this year with the biggest news being that we now have a 'full set' of Cave Links, 8 in all, with two permanently stored at Whitewalls. There were a couple of issues with the batteries in the new Cave Links not appearing to hold their charge but after a couple of cycles they all seem to be fine. They've all had the SMWCRT menu loaded but there is a little task on my list to amend this to allow Users to change the Time; old and new units show a reluctance to keep accurate time with varying degrees of error and this currently means that they sometimes need re-setting before each use in order to show meaningful message times.

The batteries in the High-band radios continue to slowly fail, one by one; don't forget to take a spare whenever you're issued with a radio please! We hope to be receiving a grant to enable us to purchase a couple of the new Digital sets for evaluation in 2018.

I'm happy to continue in the role if elected but would also fully support any newly elected Communications Officer as necessary.

Keith R. Goodhead, 12.12.17

Keith Goodhead explained that the Team holds a spare Cave Link which it is hoped can be used as a UK spare, but still awaiting confirmation from Felix.

Brian Jopling said that he still has the Nicola sets and is willing to keep them updated. Information on updates should be forwarded to him and he is keeping the batteries topped up.

Paul Taylor passed on the information that Micro Heyphones are being developed in Salop.

Piers Hallihan asked about Tetra. He was informed that the Chief of Police had stated that we would not have our own set , but one would be available to us if we requested it for a particular purpose. Airwaves would not be due until 2019 at the earliest.

**Acceptance of report**      **Proposed**      Kevin Munn      **Seconded**      Paul Taylor

### **Diving Officer's Report**

It has been a pleasingly quiet year, with no diving related incidents. A number of training events have happened this year involving the divers. The first was at Rescon17, a demonstration was made of some of the dive equipment available to support a rescue by SMWCRT. The second was in October at Cromhall quarry (Gloucestershire) where nine divers from the Welsh section CDG turned up to listen to John Volanthen discuss using a Full Face Mask and a cylinder switch block. The day then progressed to using the short slix stretcher to move our casualty to the water's edge. Once suitably equipped with FFM and dive kit he was towed around the shallow area of the quarry. This also gave us the chance to test the dive equipment from the stores before it was cleaned, dried and returned. Thanks to John and Andy Ward for their support in organising the day. The Welsh section members were encouraged to join and support SMWCRT and GCRG. During the year a number of cylinders were tested free of charge, thanks to Bristol Channel Diving for their continued support and all are in current test. A compressor has been donated to the Welsh section CDG which is currently being serviced / repaired and will then be placed in the store for use if needed.

No further questions.

**Acceptance of report**      **Proposed**      Gary Evans      **Seconded**      Steffan Davies

### **SMWCRT Webmaster Report – Paul Tarrant**

The website has been maintained and updated throughout the year to reflect the activities of the Team, such as the BCRC Conference and the Training program, as well as reports following incidents. The recent Blainau Dog Incident required a report being drafted promptly, and posted on the website in response to the negative, ill-informed comments being posted by the public on Facebook. The site that hosts our website (they do this for free!) have recently been paid £25 to secure the SMWCRT.org Domain name.

Work still needs to be done on the website and I want to refresh the photo galleries so I will welcome any good pics people may have of rescue practices in the last five years or so.



I am happy to carry on doing the role for a further year, unless someone is extremely keen to take on the job.

Paul Tarrant

Webmaster

No further questions.

**Acceptance of report**

**Proposed**

Megan Gorry

**Seconded**

Brian Jopling

### **SMWCRT Training Officer report - Peter Dennis**

Training activities (excluding first aid training) throughout 2017 were somewhat eclipsed by the preparation, organisation and obligation to host the BCRC Cave Rescue Conference at Penwyllt, 16-18 June. A report on the conference was written by Kelvin Lake and provides a good impression of the range of activities that were included, published in *Descent*, 257, pp. 42-43 and *MREW Mountain Rescue* 62, pp. 44-45. More formal records of SMWCRT business associated with ResCon17 organisation are recorded in the minutes of SMWCRT Executive committee meetings convened either side of the conference. We are very grateful to the South Wales Caving Club for granting permission to host the conference at Penwyllt and to the Ogof Ffynnon Ddu Cave Management Committee for providing permission to access OFD for the purpose of running underground training exercises. A programme was arranged which blended contributions from within cave rescue with those from relevant, outside organisations. We are also grateful to five trade organisations who either set up stands at ResCon 2017 (Lyon Equipment, Starless River, SP Medical Supplies and Conform Plastics (Slix stretchers) or donated prizes (Cotswold Outdoors)). A total of 91 delegates registered for ResCon 2017, with the majority present on the Saturday, many of whom attended the lively evening social event in Cathedral Cave, Dan yr Ogof show cave.

The success of the event was helped immensely by the glorious weather! Andy and Antonia Freem kindly filmed various training activities and quickly produced a very enjoyable short YouTube video record of ResCon 2017 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5-psprvSo8> and will edit an instructional video record of the cave rescue conference, more suitable for use in training. The organisation demanded significant time and effort and use of the online EventBrite registration service was essential since those involved would not have been able to manage the additional administration of registration prior to the conference. A LIBOR grant contributed £800 towards training costs which were used to reimburse registration (which included subsistence) and travel costs of several of the outside speakers, who very much enriched the conference programme. We are extremely grateful to Les Williams for the free loan of Hidden Earth projectors and a full Public Address system. A debt of gratitude is also extended to BCRC committee members and spouses who travelled down before the conference to assist with setting up. Also to many SWCC members in addition to the core group of SMWCRT organisers who put a tremendous amount of effort into sprucing up the facilities and conjuring up an excellent bar from the digger shed at SWCC Penwyllt! Some ResCon 17 mugs (£4) and pens (£1) remain for sale if anyone is interested in purchase to help balance the conference budget.

We became aware of some disgruntlement over the registration fee that may have reduced the total number of team members that attended but there may have been some misunderstanding that the £70 ticket price was inclusive of accommodation, all meals, teas, coffees and biscuits, with the exception of cooked breakfasts and beers. We felt that we had explained this in the registration and ticket information but this is worth consideration by the organisers of the next cave rescue conference. On reflection of the demographics of those that attended ResCon 2017, a discounted ticket price for younger cave rescuers (as distinct from student cavers) may have encouraged greater attendance by younger rescue team members. The conference was planned and costed on the basis that we would attract between 80 and 120 delegates and that was comfortably achieved.

Prior to the rescue conference, two training activities were organised. Earlier correspondence with Huw Jones, Pwll Mawr, National Coal Museum was followed up and led to a small party from SMWCRT visiting Pwll Mawr on Saturday 25 February to rehearse the carry of a stretcher from the public show mine through the evacuation tunnel to the River Arch exit. We demonstrated the Slix stretcher and successfully 'evacuated' a mock casualty through the tunnel. Many of the mine guides and staff at Pwll Mawr are very senior and less able to deal with the realistic prospect of a lift failure and physical demands of an evacuation of visitors through to River Arch. Especially given that more than one wheelchair visitor could be underground on such an occasion, a particular concern. SMWCRT could not enter into a formal arrangement but we have agreed to respond to any such call-out in the conventional manner, given the limitations of a voluntary SAR team and availability of rescuers to a Warden during week days and office hours, as such a call-out would demand.

On 4 March, Kevin Munn kindly deputised whilst I was on university student recruitment duty and co-ordinated a small group of SMWCRT rescuers, including first aiders to provide students of the Southern CHECC (Council for Higher Education Caving Clubs) with a taster in cave rescue training. A good-sized group of mainly, inexperienced student cavers joined the exercise and required significant guidance to locate the casualty and first aiders at the end of Chasm Passage. After initial oversight from SMWCRT folk to load the casualty into the stretcher and organise movement through Chasm Passage, the students grew in confidence and took greater responsibility for the stretcher carry over the mixed terrain encountered on their progress to somewhere just short of the Brickyard, where the exercise was halted in early afternoon. This was considered a positive experience by all involved and it is likely we will be asked by Southern CHECC organisers to arrange a similar training exercise in 2018.

After ResCon 17, the 'mid-Wales' mine rescue practice was held at Dinas Silica mine on 23 September, rather later than originally scheduled because the original date sadly became the day of the funeral service of our dear friend, John Lister. The rescheduled mine rescue practice attracted 25 rescuers from 8 organisations and included the full range of neighbouring rescue teams that we would expect to welcome when the event is scheduled in mid-summer at disused metal mines in actual mid-Wales, so worthwhile and the event provided many present with valuable experience of pillar and stall workings, less familiar to cave rescuers.

The final rescue practice of the year, the Big Ogof Ffynnon Ddu rescue training exercise took place on Saturday 25 November and again was well attended (>45 rescuers, including representation from North Wales CRO, Gloucester CRG, Gwent Caving Club and Coastguard - Moylegrove Cliff Rescue). The turnout permitted the original scenario to be pursued although the stretchered casualty was carried no further than the landing of Chasm Passage, at the head of the pitch out of the Chasm. This provided plenty of opportunities to rehearse technical, casualty care and management aspects of such a rescue. More detailed reports of all the 2017 practices are available on the SMWCRT website and document archive.

The dual objectives for 2017 to organise and host ResCon17 and to provide increased opportunities during rescue training exercises for advanced first aiders to apply their knowledge and log experience to comply with the demands of revised first aid training standards, were fairly well achieved. As is expected, more could always be achieved, if time allowed but I have struggled for time since September to do full justice to the role, having become rather behind schedule on academic work, deferred to later in the summer to ensure ResCon17 ran smoothly in June.

I am willing to stand again as Training Officer in 2018 should I receive the consent of the membership.

Peter Dennis  
5 January 2018

No further questions.

**Acceptance of report**

**Proposed**

Fred Levett

**Seconded**

Ali Garman

## **Equipment Officer – Vince Allkins**

A verbal report was given:-

The Rescue stores downstairs and the stairwell had been redecorated. New panelling and skirting board had been put in place and kit had been reorganised at the same time. The cycle of checking and cleaning had continued. A different type of Hand Jammer is being looked at.

Gas monitor recalibration was an issue so Vince would like someone trained up to do this task.

Matt St. Clair used a company that does this task for his monitors and would find out costs for our sets.

Paul Taylor informed the meeting that QRAE who made the Gas monitors had ceased production of this type.

It was suggested that we look at a different system that would be CO2 based; Jim Davis at BCRC had taken on this task.

**Acceptance of report**

**Proposed**

Steffan Davies

**Seconded**

Mark Morgan

## **Fundraising Officer – Claire Vivian**

Verbal update given by Gary Mitchell –

Claire Vivian had dealt with donations from the public and post-rescue. He reminded everyone about the Easyfundraising site. Claire had also put in a grant bid for money for Digital radios

Gary Mitchell thanked all the Executive Committee members who are all volunteers with other interests. He hoped to try and reduce the long list of actions in the Committee minutes and made a request for others with some time and energy to help out.

## **8. Constitution Changes**

Gary Mitchell pointed out that the last review was 10 years ago. Questions had been asked about the wording in the Constitution and the Executive felt that the suggested changes addressed those. The notes to sit behind the Constitution give a more detailed interpretation and are not part of the Constitution. They are to explain what we do, how people can become involved and how our business is conducted.

Fred Levett stated that the changes cover the key points that needed clarification and the current suggested Constitution did this.

### **Proposal**

To accept the proposed revised Constitution changes of 2018 as distributed with the pre-AGM papers.

**Proposed**

Kate Humphries

**Seconded**

Dan Thorne

**Accepted unanimously**

## 9. Election of Executive Committee for 2018

Position	Nominated	Proposed	Seconded	Elected
Chair	Dan Thorne	Gary Evans	Keith Goodhead	Dan Thorne
Secretary	Sue Goodhead	Steffan Davies	John Roe	Sue Goodhead
Treasurer	Spencer Drew	Kate Humphries	Jen Hill	Spencer Drew
First Aid Officer	Jen Hill	Brian Jopling	Dafydd Morris-Jones	Jen Hill
Equipment Officer	Vince Allkins	Gary Evans	Kevin Munn	Vince Allkins
Training Officer	Peter Dennis	Piers Hallihan	Megan Gorry	Peter Dennis
Communications Officer	Keith Goodhead	Brian Jopling	Tom Foord	Keith Goodhead
Fundraising Officer	Claire Vivian	Spencer Drew	Megan Gorry	Claire Vivian
Ordinary Member1	Matt Woodfield	Jen Hill	Megan Gorry	Matt Woodfield
Ordinary Member2	Lisa Boore	Gary Evans	Spencer Drew	Lisa Boore
Ordinary Member3	Kevin Munn	Keith Goodhead	Peter Dennis	Kevin Munn
Ordinary Member4	Sharon Smith	Keith Goodhead	Matt St. Clair	Sharon Smith
Ordinary Member5	Jonathan Jones	Mark Morgan	Toby Dryden	Jonathan Jones
Auditor	Leighton Thomas	Steffan Davies	Piers Hallihan	Leighton Thomas
Co-option (Mines)	Dafydd Morris-Jones	Jen Hill	Kate Humphries	Dafydd Morris-Jones
Co-option (Diving)	Gareth Davies	Spencer Drew	Piers Hallihan	Gareth Davies

### AOB

1. Brian Jopling proposed a vote of thanks for the work of the Executive Officers for last year and in advance for those voted in for the coming year.
2. The BCRC AGM would be on 8<sup>th</sup> April in Buxton at the Orpheus CC.
3. Dan Thorne proposed a vote of thanks to Gary Mitchell for his work as Chairman.
4. **Date of next AGM                      Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at SWCC Penwyllt**

Workshops would be arranged for after the AGM next year as it seemed to be working well this year.