

# **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Cambrian Caving Council on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2004 held at Hobby Horse Pub, Brynmawr.**

## **Those present: -**

### Full Member Clubs

Gloucester Speleological Society  
South Wales Caving Club  
Hades Caving Club  
Cwmbran Caving Club  
South Wales Cave Rescue Organisation  
University Bristol Speleological Society  
Gagendor Caving Club

Joe Duxbury  
Bernie Woodley (BW)  
Robin Weare (RW)  
Owen Clarke (OC)  
Gary Evans (GE)  
Clive Owen  
Eric Hoole

### CCC Officers and Representatives

Chairman	Owen Clarke (OC)
Secretary	Sue Mabbett (SM)
Treasurer	Clive Owen (CO)
Conservation Officer	Elsie Little (EL)
Training Officer	Eric Hoole (EH)
Cave Registrar	Gary Evans (GE)
OFD Representative	Robin Weare (RW)

## **1. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION AND OPENING REMARKS**

Owen Clarke welcomed everyone present, and thanked them for coming.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Adrian Fawcett, Caretaker Equipment Officer; Martin Peck, DYO Rep & Newbury & District CC; Judith Calford & Chris Howes, Morgannwg CC; Paul De Mengel, Princes Trust; Sheriden Lloyd, Cadley Hill CC; Gorsphya CC; Vince Allkins, Croydon CC and Sports Council Sports for Wales.

## **3. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2003**

After review by those present at that meeting, EL proposed and RW seconded that the minutes were a true record of the meeting. This was accepted by those present and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

## **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES**

SM suggested that only those matters not covered later in the meeting under Officers reports, representative reports, or other agenda items were covered here. Those present agreed, there were no items that were not included within the planned agenda.

## **5. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

There were no applications for membership.

### **5a Llanelli CC**

In September 2003, Llanelli CC had been accepted for full membership of CCC on condition a Club Constitution and Club entry fee were forwarded to SM. SM has received their constitution and a promise of money, but no fee to date.

## **6. OFFICERS REPORTS**

Some of the officer's reports were circulated by e-mail before the meeting; others were circulated at the beginning of the meeting. SM proposed those present read the reports, before any questions on the reports were taken. All the reports are appended to these minutes. This was accepted by those present.

### **6a Chairman**

EL proposed thanks for OC's report. The attendance at meeting bore witness to comments in OC's report reference support for caving councils and associations, as there were very few present at meeting.

### **6b Hon Secretary**

A correction in the report, from mail to e-mail on line 5.

G Evans asked what proportion of Caving Clubs active in Wales were members of CCC? SM believed most properly constituted Caving Organisations within Wales were members of CCC, however she was aware of odd groupings (e.g. Garimpieros, Gower Pot Men) which were more groups of friends interested in caving/digging rather than 'Caving Clubs'.

### **6c Hon Treasurer**

An updated report was circulated to the meeting.

EL asked if the introduction of BCA would affect our ability to obtain a grant from SCW as income would not include NCA membership fee from 2005. SM referred EL to the last AGM where Eli Karlike Cook reported /verified that grant funding awarded to Welsh Sport Associations was not linked to income. Grant funding was given to support specific areas, this included equipment, training and special projects. It is spending on these items that are supported, this is independent of income. Another effect on our grant funding is the requirement to adhere to our proposed budget particularly for the expenditures against which grant was awarded. SCW do have condition that if grant funding is not spent as proposed then SCW have right to claim it back.

CO would suggest raising CCC subscription to £10 but due to imminent inauguration of BCA with tithe rather than subscription then he did not think it was appropriate to raise subs for 2004 only. EL reported that there maybe opportunity to gain funding as a council, this is being discussed by national body. OC thanked CO for his report.

### **6d Conservation Officer**

EL reported that an Access Agreement had been set up with the Forestry Commission to enable cavers to have access to the Silica Mines at Dinas Rock. In addition to her report, EL was interested to find out about more speleological sites within Forestry Commission land, as it would be advantageous to set up access agreements now before Open Access legislation came into full force. CO commented he was aware sites within land in mid-Wales, (old mines). EL also noted CCC need to change their constitution if the Council wished to set up access agreements in their own name. SM suggested that with the changes to constitution required with BCA inauguration then we could change the Councils ability to set up access agreements. Those present agreed that it would be acceptable to proceed with giving the Cambrian Caving Council right to set up access agreements on behalf of cavers in Wales or active in Wales. SM noted that historically there was a perception that CCC may attempt set up access agreements in conflict with caving clubs in the region attempting to set up access agreements to the same sites. The constitution would have to be worded such that there were no conflicts between CCC and any member clubs when setting up any new access agreements.

EL is trying to contact Maurice Febry re-BTC, also interested in other names that are interested in bats and their conservation. SM suggested a name, RW suggested a couple of names, and EL would contact these cavers.

### **6e Training Officer.**

EH noted lack of insurance led to a halt in organising events. EH asked for contacts in N Wales; SM also mentioned Glenn Jones offered a talk on the Gower. It is planned to have more talks this year.

Discussion how to encourage requests for training or funds to do trainings.

SM thanked EH for his report.

## **6f Equipment Officer**

AF sent apologies. AF had not issued a report as he is only caretaker. SM apologised that she had not followed up with other potential Equipment Officers; local CICs who had Eco Anchor placement training.

## **6g Development (Legal & Insurance) Officer**

OC had not issued a report. OC stated that there were still questions over new insurance. For example, his Club Cwmbran had access arrangements for two sites. EL noted Cwmbran does not grant access to other Clubs or cavers so they are not an access body. RW had similar situation in Hades so they had handed their access to FODCAG for the similar grotty holes nobody wishes to visit.

NCA/BCRA have got together to subsidise this 3<sup>rd</sup> party insurance, not completely satisfactory but we had to be pragmatic, and to work with what we have. We have to make it work to ensure continued access to caves. BCA will pursue for next year with Nick Williams, on going negotiations. EL working through CROW and Access Forum to gain insurance for all types of outdoor sports, CCW trying to assist. Trying to make moves to provide cover from national government (Welsh Assembly or London)

## **6h Cambrian Cave Registry**

Current registry not touched since 1985, discrepancies in grid references. GE had commenced setting up the database and checking current data. GE is not going to issue the new registry until he is confident the basic database is accurate. Those present agreed to this proposal to issue once accurate.

GE reported that he had received a number of journals from SM and EL, once he had finished using the documents as references to the new Registry Database he will need storage place. The documents were occupying space he needed at home. SM noted we had already investigated potential storage locations. The problem was finding somewhere with access that does not assume ownership of the journals /documents. Investigations will start again into possible locations.

J Duxbury asked who will get access to the new Cambrian Cave Registry, objective is anyone who asks for it. The issue with the previous registry was the lack of access to the data. It is hoped costs to be covered, small charge for disk or paper copy, ideally on WWW.

## **7. OTHER CAMBRIAN REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**

### **7a. OFD Management Committee**

RW report issued. SM assured survey raised and current version to be re-issued.

### **7b. Sports Council for Wales WSA/OPG**

Bridget Hall had not sent in a report, however SM believed that she had not received notification of SCW meetings so had not been able to attend. SM had attended the Overseas Expedition Panel in early March. This year there were 19 applications for funding so a pre-assessment had to be made. Two of three caving expeditions were removed at this phase. One because it was not sufficiently ground breaking or at forefront of exploration, the second due to the generous funding it received last year and the limited grant it was eligible for this year. The 12 successful expeditions received 25% to 50% of the money, which was eligible for grant funding. Note: the overseas grant can be up to 50% of the cost of travel, safety equipment and essential additional equipment; therefore overseas trips to Europe are generally eligible for very limited grants.

### **7c. BBNP Access and Recreation Advisory Group ARAG**

Report issued, problems with ARAG split into three areas. See attached report.

EL asked for support to write to BBNP to bring back ARAG into one group.

### **7d. CCW Wales Access Forum**

A report is included as part of EL's Conservation Officer's report and is appended to these minutes. No comments or questions arising from the report.

### **7e. Mynydd Llangatwg C M C**

No representative had attended the last meeting. SM is not aware of any new permit secretary being appointed for Agen Allwedd. Charles Bailey has resigned following a one-year notice of his resignation. RW believes the permit secretary may be Adrian Fawcett, from a conversation he had with him.

#### **7f. Dan yr Ogof C.A.C**

See attached report.

#### **7g Pwll Ddu C.M.G**

SM had attended the last PD meeting, but the minutes did not report on any major issues. A new number has been placed on the lock. This has led to one Club at least not being able to gain entry when expected. It is hoped the new number will lead to more entries in the logbook as required.

NCA conservation group providing some pegs and tape.

#### **7h Porth yr Ogof Cave Advisory Group.**

Meeting held reviewing entrance stabilisation and signage. Next meeting will be held once the court proceedings were complete and finalised.

#### **7i Castlemartin Range**

See Conservation Officers Report, re access issues with Castlemartin.

#### **7j Forest of Dean Cave Conservation and Access Group**

Forest of Dean was closed during recent time without insurance. Access available again now insurance available.

### **8. MATTERS FOR THE NCA AGM MARCH 2004**

#### **8a Formation of the British Caving Association, BCA, Its Effect on Our Constitution**

The effect on our constitution had been delayed to March 2005 when the Regional Councils will fully become part of BCA. This year, 2004, will be the transition period. The inaugural meeting of BCA is next Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> March following NCA AGM.

Summaries of the changes that will be required to the constitution are below:

##### **Sections 1-4; Name, Definition, Aims and Objects, and Guiding Principles**

There would be no requirement to amend these sections due to introduction of the BCA

##### **Section 5 – Membership**

This section will need to be re-written as Clubs will be checked by BCA; once a Caving Club / Organisation is a member of BCA, we could not determine to which regional they tithed their membership fee. There will also be individual class membership, so some provision will have to be set up for individual members of CCC. Consideration will also need to be given to foreign caving clubs who may wish to support CCC financially but have no right to join BCA.

##### **Section 6- Subscriptions and Finance**

The sub-sections pertaining to collection and setting of subscriptions will need to be completely re-written. BCA will be the main source of funding of the councils. It would also be of assistance if the financial year-end was the same for the national body and all its regional councils.

##### **Sections 7 to 13, Including Officers, Council Elections, Quorum, Procedure for General Meetings, Amendments to constitution, Voting, Limitations, Dissolution and Interpretation.**

There is no requirement to change any of these sections, with exception of minor points e.g. date of AGM, we may wish to tie this to AGM time of the new body.

As discussed above there is also an intention to allow CCC to organise or arrange access agreements, which will need constitutional change.

#### **8b Matters for the NCA AGM March 2004**

There are no motions proposed for next weeks NCA AGM. The BCA inaugural meeting (ISGM) immediately follows the NCA AGM.

**9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

<u>Officers</u>		Nominated by	Seconded by
Chairman	Sue Mabbett	Clive Owen	E Little
	Owen Clarke	Robin Weare	
Secretary	To be appointed		
Treasurer	Clive Owen	R Weare	G Evans
Conservation Officer	E Little	B Woodley	C Owen
Equipment Officer	To Be Appointed		
Training Officer	Eric Hoole	E Little	S Mabbett
L&I Officer	Owen Clarke	S Mabbett	G Evans
Registrar	Gary Evans	E Little	E Hoole

- SM was chosen / voted for by those present to be the Chairman.
- There were no willing volunteers for Secretary, some names were suggested for secretary, EL and EH will be contacting the names in an agreed order.
- EH will contact local CICs with Eco Anchor placement training to see if they are willing to take on the post of Equipment Officer.
- For all other posts, there was only a single nomination for each post, these were accepted by the meeting.

Thanks offered to AF for his work on anchor placement and checking in the Cambrian region over the last few years.

Representatives

There were no formal proposals for each representative; the meeting determined who the representatives would be by consensus. The representatives accepted are as listed below: -

OFDMC	R Weare	PDCMG	S Mabbett
MLCMC	A Fawcett	DYOCAC	M Peck
OPG WSA	S Mabbett/John Roe	BBNP ARAG	E Little/S France/B Woodley
CCW WAF	E Little	PYO	E Little / E Hoole

**10. CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATIONS.**

GE issued a report, and noted SWCRO is now totally defunct. The teams and areas was summarised by GE. WBCRT covers SW Police area and most of Dyfed Powys, up to Dolgellau. Gwent CRT covers Gwent and Llangattock. North Wales CRT covers areas north of Dolgellau. Forest of Dean is covered by Gloucester CRT. Gloucester CRT, Gwent CRT and WBCRT link as necessary for rescue call outs.

**11. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES**

None proposed or required before the inauguration of BCA. Changes will have to be made as discussed in section 8 above preferably in September 2004 or as a last opportunity, at the AGM in March 2005.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

SM had been notified of slide show by Dai Hunt at Miners Welfare Hall, Easter Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April, at 6pm.

**13. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

The date agreed was Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September in the afternoon at the Hobby Horse Inn Brynmawr.

Minutes prepared by S Mabbett, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2003

Signed.....

Date.....