

**Minutes of the CCC Annual General Meeting, held at Hobby Horse Inn,
Brynmawr, 13th March 2005**

Present:

Sue Mabbett (SM)	Chair
Clive Owen (CO)	Treasurer, UBSS
Ian Healey (IH)	Secretary, Gagendor CC
Barry Hill (BH)	Assistant Secretary (Website)
Elsie Little (EL)	Conservation Officer
Dave Ludlam (DL)	Equipment Officer
Andy Lewington (AL)	Equipment Officer Assistant
Owen Clarke (OC)	Legal & Insurance Officer
Martin Peck (MP)	DYO CAC Rep, Newbury & District
Robin Weare (RW)	Hades CC
Julia Williams (JW)	Hereford CC
Bernie Woodley (BW)	SWCC

1. Chair's Opening Remarks:

SM noted it had been a year of changes on the Committee and it was now a large committee that was just getting up to speed. We now have a good website and have dropped the Newsletter.

2. Apologies:

A smaller turnout than hoped for possibly in part due to Wales playing in the 6 Nations at the same time.

Apologies received from:

Harvey Lloyd, Gorphwysfa

John Mayock, SCW

Gary Evans, Registrar

Eric Hoole, Training Officer

3. Minutes of the General Meeting of September 2004:

These were accepted by the meeting and signed by SM

4. Matters Arising from the GM Mins:

No matters arising

5. Applications for Membership:

None received

6. Officer's Reports:

Please see separate written reports. Further comments and actions to be taken are noted below.

6a. Chairperson:

SM thanked all Officers and representatives for their Reports in advance.

6b. Secretary:

There will be a '5 Year Rule' for archiving documents etc received by the secretary. IH to send retrospective letter to Newsletter subscribers explaining there will be no

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Newsletters now that the website is up and running. CCC will send minutes of the 2005 AGM to all existing club members and contact BCA for a list of clubs affiliating to CCC as a future mailing list.

6c. Treasurer:

CCC's immediate financial future is looking okay. Under the new arrangements for Club membership of BCA and a chosen Regional Body, BCA will be passing on approx. £500 to CCC. We are also in the fortunate position of having Sports Council for Wales (SCW) funding of £600. This provides scope for developing future project work. There was a discussion at the BCA meeting about overspend/underspend of BCA funding to Regional Bodies. Further payment may become available to Regional Bodies in extenuating circumstances if appropriate.

6d. Conservation Officer:

The access problem at Little Neath and associated caves remains unresolved. A further meeting is planned with the owners. CCW is also showing some misplaced concern that damage is occurring from Outdoor Pursuit Groups. CCC is commissioning some Cave Experts to produce a report. OC reported some damage in Ogof Ddwy Sir.

6e. Training Officer:

No progress on lecture in N. Wales. NCA Training Officer Dave Edwards has sadly died. There are problems for CIC trainer/assessors with regard to insurance cover if they are not employed and insured by employer. For the self employed, professional insurance cover would prohibitively expensive. A £50-75K policy would need to be taken out for a handful of CIC Trainer/Assessors.

6f. Equipment Officer:

Eco-anchor placements have all been checked and appear to have been over-checked. Recommendations for checks are after 1 year, then 2 years later and then a further 5 years later. Most eco-anchors in Wales have had checks in excess of this. Advice regarding eco-anchors in Wales is on our website. BCA National Equipment Committee is not presently meeting.

6g. Legal & Insurance Officer:

BCA don't know the insurance premium due until Dec. They will cover members until 31st Jan but will need subs (insurance payments) in before then. BCRA are producing a booklet on 'Legal Aspects of Caving'.

6h. Cambrian Cave Registry:

SM thanked GE for work done. NCA Conservation & Access fund gave a grant towards the work being done. More funding should be available from CCC & BCA. The Register will be freely available to all cavers on the CCC website, when completed.

7. Other Cambrian Representative Reports:

Please see separate written reports. Further comments and actions to be taken are noted below.

7a. OFD Management Committee.

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7b. Sports Council for Wales:

SCW gave grants for 3 overseas caving expeditions: Kungur Cave Exploration (2005) - £1150, Nullarbour (2005) - £1500 & Belize (2006) - £2000.

SCW criteria is that these expeds are pushing frontiers at the top level of the sport as well as being safe and developing communication links etc.

7c. Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP):

EL to approach appropriate expert(s) re. producing a powerpoint presentation about what cavers do. This will be used at a BBNP meeting to raise the profile of caving and can also be used in the future for other appropriate situations.

7d. CCW Wales Access Forum:

EL reported this has been a useful networking meeting representing the interests of cavers. It has been good that various people have attended on behalf of CCC.

7e. Mynydd Llangattock CMC.

7f. Dan yr Ogof C.A.C.:

There was a discussion on the fixed aids in DYO. The overwhelming mood of the meeting was that the rope at the rising should become permanently in-situ now that the climb is very polished. An appropriately rigged in-situ rope would allow SRT/protected climbing & abseil descent of the ladder pitch and rock climb to the window of Windy Way, which has now had new anchors put in place.

7g. Pwll Ddu C.M.G.

7h. Porth yr Ogof Cave Advisory Group.

7i. Castlemartin Range:

Frustratingly there is lack of support from MOD and National Park to survey the area and cliffs for caves. A survey on bats on the range has been received.

8. BCA Matters:

NCA no longer exists. CCC now attached to BCA. Chairman of BCA is Mick Day. IH to send copy of CCC constitution to new BCA Secretary. All Clubs need to send a copy of their constitution to their regional council (CCC) to be forwarded on to BCA. IH to e-mail clubs re. this requirement. Next BCA AGM 25th March 2006.

9. Election of Officers:

The following people were nominated and voted into the following CCC Officer posts:

Chair	Sue Mabbett	nominated by EL	2nded by CO
Secretary	Ian Healey	nominated by SM	2nded by OC
Treasurer	Clive Owen	nominated by RW	2nded by DL
Conservation	Elsie Little	nominated by OC	2nded by SM
Training	Richard Hill	nominated by DL	2nded by AL (in RH's absence)
Equipment	Dave Ludlam	nominated by CO	2nded by EL
Legal & Ins.	Owen Clarke	nominated by EL	2nded by CO
CC Registry	Gary Evans	nominated by SM	2nded by DL (in GE's absence)
As. Sec./Web.	Barry Hill	nominated by SM	2nded by EL

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9. cont/

As. Conservation Officer Bernie Woodley nominated by EL 2nded by SM
Andy Lewington agreed to continue as Assistant Equipment Officer.

The following Representatives were confirmed in the posts detailed in 'titles' **7a – 7i**:

7a. – Robin Weare	7b. – Sue Mabbett	7c. – Elsie Little
7d. – Elsie Little	7e. – Adrian Fawcett	7f. – Martin Peck
7g. – Sue Mabbett	7h. – Elsie Little	7i. – EL + Gary Jones

The meeting also accepted EL as the official CCC Rep on the committee of the steering group for the Geopark bid.

10. Cave Rescue Organisations:

Please see separate West Brecon Cave Rescue Team report.

11. Constitution Changes:

Proposed changes to the CCC Constitution were previously circulated by post to all member clubs with the agenda for the AGM.

The AGM was not quorate – 7 clubs represented instead of the 9 needed. The proposed constitution changes were therefore voted on but need ratification at the next General Meeting. Voting was for 2 'blocks' of constitutional change as follows:

All proposed amendments covering changes to access arrangements:

7 votes for 0 votes against 0 abstentions

All other proposed amendments (to do with membership etc.):

7 votes for 0 votes against 0 abstentions

12. AOB:

CCC to take over managing access/new agreement to Ogof Rhyddwd from Cwmbran/OC. Formal acceptance given by the meeting for EL to represent CCC in access negotiations for Little Neath, Bridge etc.. CCC now has a Lazer measuring device for surveying that is available for member clubs to borrow. The meeting discussed certain activities such as 'competition caving', sponsored cave-ins, speed caving etc. The feeling was that such events/activities should be discouraged as they are not conducive to good conservation practice. The old CCC website cannot be dismantled at present. Suggested that links are updated.

13. Date and Location of next General Meeting:

Sunday Sept 11th 2005 at the Rising Sun Pub, Forest of Dean. RW to organise and contact Secretary. DL may be able to arrange minibus transport from Storey Arms area.

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