

Minutes of the Cambrian Caving Council General Meeting on 11th
Sept '05 at The Rising Sun, Moseley Green, Forest of Dean:

Present:	Club/Organisation Representing:	CCC Position:
Paul Taylor	(PT) GCRG (Hon Chair)	
Maurice Febry	(MF) FODCCAG (Cons Officer)	
Andy Lewington	(AL) Gagendor	Ass. Equip. Officer
Seb Hull	(SH) RFDCC	
Dave Appleing	(DA) Gloucestershire SS	
Ian Healey	(IH)	CCC Sec
Clive Owen	(CO) UBSS	CCC Treasurer
Sue Mabbett	(SM)	CCC Chair
Sue Corston	(SC) (RFDCC)	

1 Chairperson's Opening Remarks:

SM thanked the Forest of Dean Clubs and Organisations for a full representation and for 'hosting' the meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence:

Elsie Little, John Hine, Adrian Fawcett, Robin Weare, Barry Hill, Gary Evans, Richard Hill, Owen Clarke, Paul de Mengel, Dave Ludam.

3-5 Minutes of the AGM, Matters Arising & Ratification of Constitutional Changes proposed at AGM:

IH apologised for forgetting to bring the AGM minutes or the notes on proposed constitutional changes to the meeting. The AGM minutes were not therefore signed and constitutional changes not officially ratified. Official quorum was discussed as being 4 clubs represented due to a reduced official membership – see 7b

6 Applications for Membership:

None were received but it was noted that Parys Underground Group were new members through BCA affiliation.

7 Officers Reports (see also separate written reports):

7a Chairperson:

SM introduced CCC Committee to those present and explained Committee roles. A recent Committee meeting was held to discuss finances.

7b Secretary (see also sep. written report):

IH read through the list of CCC member clubs affiliated through BCA membership, which number 17 in total. An additional 2 clubs are individual members of CCC having chosen not to join BCA. IH outlined the difficulties of obtaining up to date information from BCA on member clubs – for example e-mail addresses. For the time being previous members of CCC will be e-mailed with agendas, minutes and other notices. IH will also e-mail previous member clubs to suggest they indicate a regional body (CCC) to affiliate to in next years BCA application.

7c Treasurer (see also sep. written report):

CO explained the funding situation from BCA & SCW. He urged member clubs to think of appropriate ways to spend CCC money. It was agreed at a Committee meeting on 22.07.08 to spend £500 on the Cambrian Cave Registry. PT brought up idea of funding for radon testing. This had previously been funded in Forest of Dean by Forest Enterprise and English Nature. CO said to put in a synopsis of what radon survey was for so that it could be discussed by committee. CO announced his intention to stand down as treasurer next year. In his absence Robin Weare was discussed as a possible future candidate.

7d Conservation Officer:

SM said that CCC reps had been attending appropriate meetings and that the Welsh Assembly have sent CCC a big document on Environmental Strategy.

7e Training Officer: No report.

7f Equipment Officer:

AL reported on the lack of progress of himself and DL being trained as P-hanger bolt installers/checkers. Les Sykes has said BCA will pay expenses for doing the course. It has also been suggested that having done the course they may also become trainers themselves. CCC has a duty to check registered bolts. Pwll Dyfn & Wet Sink need checking. SM to highlight at the next BCA meeting the problem of CCC not presently having any registered installer/checkers. It was noted that the Technical Committee of NCA/BCA has lapsed.

Clubs and individuals are reminded that users of bolts need to check them themselves before use.

It was noted that a previous CCC Equipment Officer had put in some bolts at Dinas Rock, on request, as a favour to climbers and centres using the rocks. This was done on a private basis and not as an official CCC action. CCC is not responsible for checking these bolts. It is suggested that the BMC could take up any future interest in these fixed aids.

7g Development (L&I) Officer (see sep. written report):

Following the reading of OC's report several other members present also reported the problem of getting BCA cards late and the subsequent difficulty in the ability to show proof of insurance.

8a OFD Management Committee:

RW had previously reported that there was nothing to report.

8b Sports Council for Wales & WSA/OPG:

SM has been invited to Welsh Sports As. AGM. Nothing heard on Outdoor Pursuit Group. No meetings

8c BBNP ARAG: no report.

8d CCW Wales Access Forum: no report.

8e Mynydd Llangattock CMAC: (see sep. written report)

8f Dan yr Ogof CAC: no report

8g Pwll Ddu CMG:

July meeting not held. Meeting planned in Nov.

8h Porth yr Ogof Cave Advisory Group: no report.

8i Castlemartin Range: no report

8j FODCCAG:

MF reported on several recent issues in the Forest and said he would send a written report to CCC Sec.

9 Cambrian Cave Registry: See sep. written report

10 CCC Spending on Projects 2005-6:

Discussed in Treasurer's Report (7c)

11 BCA Matters:

There was a BCA meeting in June with only 5 attending. Nothing Arising.

12 Cave Rescue Organisations:

A recent incident in Noxham Park involving a diabetic was attended by Gloucestershire Cave Rescue Group (GCRG). It highlighted potential problems in identifying the location of an incident. The original 999 call was routed to the regional control centre in Bristol, a long way from the incident near Bream. Control Centre's work on postcodes for locating sites and caves and mines are not postcoded! Cave Rescue were contacted and dealt with it.

It was reported that the Bank Holiday OFD rescue was well managed with some good teamwork between CRO's.

13 AOB

PT was thanked for running a trip in Wet Sink before the meeting.

14 Date and Location of 2006 CCC Annual General Meeting:

Sun 13th March 2006, 3pm at The Hobby Horse Inn, Brynmawr

Secretary's Report for CCC General Meeting, 11.9.05

The last six months have been rather hectic on a personal level (new job, new house and new wife) and fortunately, therefore, rather quiet on the CCC level. Now that membership of a regional body (e.g. CCC) goes with BCA membership it has meant that it has not been necessary to chase up subscriptions, which was once a time consuming job for the secretary. We have only two member clubs who are not also BCA members.

The only downside to the BCA 'centralisation' of club membership is that we lose a degree of 'intimacy' with our membership. It wasn't until three days ago that I finally learnt from BCA who our affiliated members are. 17 clubs have indicated they wish to be affiliated to CCC. This is down from a previous membership of around 50. It appears many clubs have not stated their desire to be affiliated to a particular regional body. I am assuming this is partly down to confusion over BCA membership procedures. In the past some clubs have been members of two or more regional bodies and may not have thought they could state this as a preference. For the time being I will continue to contact all our previous members with minutes etc.

Correspondence by post has become very infrequent. This might in part be due to having moved house 4 times in 18 months. I'm staying one step ahead of junk mail senders. E-mail has of course become the most widespread and effective form of communication. Other than AGM notices and agendas most correspondence that goes to CCC member clubs and other organisations is via computer and internet.

It may therefore surprise you to learn that for the last two years I have not had a phone line or indeed a computer. Having worked freelance it's also not always been possible to check e-mails at work and so sometimes I have not been able to check e-mails for over a week even when I'm not away. Apologies therefore if I haven't always been prompt replying. My new employers however have very kindly given me a shiny new laptop and I am now connected at home so I should now be able to respond much faster.

Ian Healey, CCC Sec, 10.9.05

CAMBRIAN CAVING COUNCIL
TREASURER'S REPORT TO GENERAL MEETING
11 SEPTEMBER 2005

As stated in my report to the AGM in March, from the beginning of this year the way in which CCC is funded has changed substantially. In the past, CCC's core funding came from club subscriptions but with the advent of the British Caving Association this is no longer the case. Clubs who wish to join BCA do so directly and no longer pay subscriptions via regional councils. Clubs who do not want to join BCA may still subscribe directly to CCC.

Like all regional councils CCC now receives a grant from BCA to cover its core expenditure. This is determined at a meeting of the BCA and regional treasurers towards the end of each year. Each treasurer has to make the case for his/her region, explaining how its money has been spent and what is needed for the future. Clearly the type and quality of the services that CCC offers its members will affect the funding we can expect in future.

CCC continues to be eligible for development funding from the Sports Council for Wales. This is intended for purposes other than core services and again has to be justified by completion of an application each autumn accounting for what has been spent during the year and detailing plans for the coming year. This funding gives CCC the opportunity to take new initiatives that will widen participation in caving and improve facilities for all cavers in Wales (eg the publication of the Cambrian Cave Registry on the internet).

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 1/1/05 to 11/9/05

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
CCC Subscriptions*	48.00	Club Fees to NCA*	45.00
NCA Subscriptions*	45.00	Postage	12.50
BCA Core Funding	550.00	Stationery	12.00
SCW Development Grant	600.00	Accommodation	20.00
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TOTALS	1243.00		89.50
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		1153.50	
BALANCE B/F 1/1/05		4460.09	
BALANCE C/F 11/9/05		5613.59	

*2004 subscriptions paid in arrears except for one 2005 non-BCA club subscription

The balance carried forward is held as follows:

Reserve Account (National Savings): £4126.07

Current Account: £1487.52

C D Owen Hon Treasurer 26/8/05

Equipment Officers' Report to CCC General Meeting , 11th Sept.
'05.

Correspondence

Little to report, most contact by phone and e-mail re. P-hanger placement re-training and Dinas Rock anchors (see below).

P- hanger Revalidation

Several attempts to arrange a course for AL , DL (Dave Appleing also interested). First effort with Les Sykes - failed at the last hurdle - Les unable to commit time while he was running another type of course on Gloucester/ Warwickshire border. Second possibility- Aug.14 with Nigel Atkins - with Derbyshire group- course cancelled due to lack of resin and anchors !!!

Third attempt - now - sounds promising !- Les promises to send 3 possible Nov. dates for DL and AL to do full one day course- to include placement , testing , maintenance and record keeping . This would enable DL and AL to 'cascade' the the same training back in the region. Suggest that having several more 'qualified' to do tests would be a real advantage , especially after mid- '06 when many more hangers become due for formal testing.

BCA funding has been offered for travel and accommodation expenses for DL and AL (DA ?) to attend this course.

We are finding it difficult to spend CCC money. ? Perhaps , if the committee agree that we should have more people in the region who can test and record P-hangers, then we could offer to pay their training course expenses and for materials required ?

Present state of fixed anchors

NO defects reported .

Close inspection of records- We have now checked all records as opposed to the random selection of early '05, revealing.....

Pwll Dwfñ..... 15 hangers overdue for testing (2nd test @ 2 years) all on 2nd pitch and below - most due Jan. '05. Still a fairly popular cave but no reported problems.

Slaughter Stream/Wet Sink4 apparently overdue (due mid '04).

ACTION .. need to contact Dave Appleing for update.

Rest of hangers..according to BCA recommendations..next major round of checks due to start mid-'07 and through to mid- '09 !

Dinas Rock (novice wall) Hangers not formally checked since installation,

DL and AL loathe to - liability etc. DL attempting to get advice from BMC - contacted Andy Cummings- he suggested contacting SWMC- still trying to get best contact. Any further advice from cttee. ?

LEGAL AND INSURANCE OFFICER'S REPORT TO THE CAMBRIAN MEETING 11/9/05

Once again there were fortunately no legal matters raised. On the insurance front it is good to see the BCA Insurance scheme up and running, but it is disappointing that the PL Insurance cards are being delivered very late. I am in the middle of trying, as CDG Welsh Section treasurer, to set up a scheme that will give me a chance of getting cards to members by 1st Jan. This based on sending out requests for 2006 subs on 1st November 2005, either with an assumed or an actual Insurance premium, getting the money in by 1st December, transferring this rapidly to BCA thus allowing cards to be printed and sent out before the end of December. BCA have been very supportive in this. Other clubs that have a strong reason to have their cards by 1st Jan may wish to copy this.

Owen Clarke Cambrian Legal and Insurance Officer 4th Sept 2005

MLCMAC Report to CCC 11/09/05

A meeting of the Mynydd Llangatwg CM / AC was held on 13th May. Main points:

1. Installation of the gate to Prices Dig entrance to Daren Cilau was imminent.
2. Negotiations are ongoing to transfer access administration to Craig a Ffynnon to MLCMAC, but is dependent on deliberations by the Land Agent's solicitors.
3. Minor vandalism has occurred to the Agen Allwedd gate. Information is now displayed at the cave entrance about how to gain legitimate access to the cave.
4. Although the criminal case against car parking outside Whitewalls was dropped, there were concerns that a civil case would follow. Car parking at this location should still be regarded as sensitive.

AF 03/09/05