

Minutes of the Cambrian Caving Council (CCC) AGM, 12 March 2006
At the Hobby Horse Inn, Brynmar:

Present:

Owen Clarke	OC	Legal & Insurance Officer, Librarian, Cwmbran CC
Maurice Febry	MF	Gloucestershire Speleological Society Chairman
Ian Healey	IH	Secretary, GSS & Gagendor CC
Richard Hill	RH	Training Officer, Gagendor CC
John Hine	JH	FODCCAG Hon Chairman
Elsie Little	EL	Conservation Officer
Dave Ludlam	DL	Equipment Officer
Sue Mabbett	SM	Chairperson
Mike McCombe	MM	Newbry & District CC
Paul Nuttall	PN	Brynmawr Caving Club Sec, Gwent Cave Rescue Sec
Clive Owen	CO	Treasurer, UBSS
Paul Taylor	PT	GCRG Hon Chairman, RFDCC
Andrew Wright	AW	UBSS

1. Chair's Opening Remarks:

SM thanked those present for turning up despite the snowy weather.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Andy Lewington	Assistant Equipment Officer
SWCC	
Gary Evans	Registrar, WBCRT
Barry Hill	Website Sec
Dee de Mengel	Princes Trust
Bruce Jones	Hon Sec Welsh Scout Council Caving Group

3. Minutes of the General Meeting of Sept 05 & the AGM of March 05:

These were accepted by those present as a true record and signed by SM

4. Matters Arising from Sept General Meeting Minutes:

No matters arising.

5. Ratification of Constitutional Changes proposed at 05 AGM:

SM reminded those present of the changes and the reasons for them. They had originally been voted on and accepted by the 05 AGM but the meeting hadn't been quorate. This meeting was quorate and the proposed Constitutional changes were ratified.

6. Applications for Membership: None received

7. Officer's Reports:

7a. Chair: See separate written report.

7b. Secretary: See separate written report.

CO suggested we e-mail clubs to ask them if they were BCA members and if they were would they like to affiliate to CCC for no extra cost. This way CCC would be able to identify it's members without waiting for BCA to inform it. IH to action.

7c. Treasurer: See separate written report.

CO not sure what BCA contribution to CCC will be this year. BCA is waiting to see what money will come in.

7d. Conservation Officer: See separate written report.

EL has concern over coastal access and making sure we are recognised as a legitimate activity. Access to Bridge, Little Neath, FE mines in Sychryd Valley administered through CCC. Ogof Capel has new gate on dry entrance to protect formations. It is a bat-friendly gate. There are 3 key holders including EL.

7e. Training Officer: Nothing to report.

7f. Equipment Officer:

There has been no activity with P-hanger anchors in the last two years due to the lack of a training course. Finally however a P-hanger Installer & Maintenance Course has been run and financed and financed by the BCA. There are now 4 Qualified Installer & Maintainers (Dave Ludlam, Andy Lewington, Steve Tomolin & Dave Appeling). Work across the region is being co-ordinated by DL and records are centralised with CCC. At present anchors are in god shape. A few anchors in Pwll Dwfn are due for a standard test. The BCA have generously said they will provide a portable anchor tester to each region.

7g. Legal & Insurance Officer + Librarian:

No one has contacted OC re. legal matters.
Insurance – Most BCA cards are out on time this year. OC very concerned about the high fee for explosive users group. PT said that the insurance fee for explosive users has already been lowered.
Library – no one has asked to borrow any of the archive recently. Negotiations are underway to bring the Mel Davies collection into the CCC library.

7h. Cambrian Cave Registry: See separate written report.

Cambrian Representative Reports:

8a. OFD Management Committee: See separate written report.

OC stated he still believes the mud formations mentioned are not due to the passage of cavers feet.

8b. Sports Council for Wales & WSA/OPG: See separate written report.

8c. BBNP ARAG: See separate written report.

8d. CCW Wales Access Forum: No report.

8e. Mynydd Llangattock CMC: See separate written report.

8f. Dan yr Ogof C.A.C.:

Lots of work has been done sorting out the fixed aids. This is to allow progress beyond The Rising using SRT. Fishermen on the Tawe (downstream of the resurgence) have complained about the red colour of the water coming out of the cave. This has been identified by cavers as a natural phenomenon caused by a natural sediment colouring the water after rainfall. Research is ongoing to explain this phenomenon.

8j. FODCCAG: report by MF

Permit system with Forestry Commission (FC) is working OK despite still some un-authorized caving activities.

Work for FC / English Nature (EN): grilling work at a number of cave and mine sites at the request of FC. One site has other activity hence discussion with EN, EA & FC.

Bats: 5 cSACs now upgraded to SAC status. Base line bat monitoring programme carried out in 2005 for EN / FC etc. – local cavers heavily involved in all aspects of this project along with some members of G.B.G. Next phase is continued monitoring using same criteria as 2005. Using EN/FC/FODCCAG Bat monitoring protocol. Radon project ongoing.

BCA/BCT/EN liaison meetings ongoing.

JH reported that Cwm Ysthwyth Mine appears to now have grilled entrances.

9. Election of Officers:

Officer Post	Name of Person Elected	Proposed By	Seconded By
Chair	Sue Mabett	OC	DL
Sec	Ian Healey	PT	DL
Treasurer	Mike McCombe	SM	CO
Conservation	Elsie Little	SM	DL
Assistant Conservation	Bernie	SM	EL
	Maurice Febry	SM	EL
Website Sec	Barry Hill	SM	EL
Training	Richard Hill	SM	EL
Equipment	Dave Ludlam	PT	MF
Assistant Equipment	Andy Lewington	?	?
Legal & Insurance	Owen Clarke	CO	EL
Registrar	Gary Evans	DL	EL

Representatives Reconfirmed:

OFD	Robin Weare	Waterfalls	Elsie Little
CCW	Elsie Little	DYO	Martin
Mynydd LLangatock	Adrian Fawcett	Pwll Du	Sue Mabbett
FODDCAG	Maurice Febry	Castlemartin	EL & Gary Jones

10. CCC Spending Projects 2006-7:

PT asked for funding for Radon monitoring in the Forest and also Rescue Practice funding. £100 offered for each. Proposed by IH & 2nded by SM, voted on by meeting, no objections or abstentions.

EL suggested reserving some funding for gating & fence work.

SM suggested committee would handle any future funding applications for the year.

11. BCA Matters:

Still a few problems with membership admin but better than last year.

BCA AGM – 25th March

12. Cave Rescue Organisations:

WBCRT: see sep. report.

GCRG: PT reported that GCRG had supported WBCRT in OFD rescue in May – a good team effort which is important for a big rescue. The recent Miss Graces Lane joint rescue practice was very successful. Run as a series of workshops with different casualties.

NWCRO: PN reported that insurance was prohibitively expensive - £670 this year to insure £5000 of gear. Min insurance cover £20K. Insurance needed for grant applications but often grants not worth much more than cost of insurance.

13. AOB:

PT – a film has been made by a commercial organisation in the Forest without permission from FE or FODDCAG – sort of cavalier attitude to access that could have negative effect on access.

New edition of guidebook to Caves in the Forest of Dean – copies available from PT.

JH also publicised book “Water Power in Mining: Mining History” – copies from him.

14. Date and Location of CCC General Meeting in Sept 2006:

6.30pm Sat 9 Sept 2006 at either Rising Sun Pub, Moseley Green or GCRG Depot, Cinderford.

A Forest of Dean Caving Trip will be arranged before the meeting.