

Minutes of the Cambrian Caving Council Annual General Meeting
on 11th March 2007, at The Mountain Centre, Libanus

Present:	Club/Organisation Representing:	CCC Position:
Paul Taylor	(PT) GCRG, FODCCAG, GSS	
Maurice Febry	(MF) GSS	FODCCAG rep, Ass. Conservation
Ian Healey	(IH)	CCC Sec
Sue Mabbett	(SM)	CCC Chair
Barry Hill	(BH) Hereford CC	Webmaster
Mike McCombe	(MM) Newbury & District	Treasurer
Elsie Little	(EL)	Conservation
Bernie Woodley	(BW) SWCC	Ass. Conservation
Andy Lewington	(AL) Gagendor CC	Ass. Equip.
Gary Evans	(GE) SWCC, WBCRT	Cave Registrar
Stuart France	(SF) Chelsea SS	
Robin Weare	(RW) Hades	OFD Rep. Newsletter Editor
John Hine	(JH) FODCCAG	

1 Chairperson's Opening Remarks:

The sad news of Frank Bagley's death on 10th March was shared with those present. Frank Baguely was both Secretary and Treasurer of the CCC for many years up until the mid-nineties

2 Apologies for Absence:

Joe Duxbury, GSS; Sheridan Lloyd, Cadley Hill; Tom Evans, OUCC; Rachel Smith, Gagendor; Rich Hill, Training Officer; Dave Ludlam, Equipment Officer.

3 & 4 Minutes of the Sep 2006 Meetings & Matters Arising:

Proposed by PT Seconded by MM agreed as accurate by those present.
Signed by SM

5 Ratification of Constitutional Amendments:

Main Changes:

Changes were proposed to Sections 5&11 to reflect on individuals be eligible as members via BCA membership.

An opening statement is to be added to Section 2 stating that Cavers and caving are terms that include other forms of underground exploration such as mine exploration
Other minor changes including typos/grammatical changes were also considered.

All proposed amendments were passed by a unanimous vote in favour.

6 Applications for Membership:

None received.

7 Officers Reports:

7a Chairperson: None

7b Secretary: Written Report Below:

My rather despondent report to the Committee at the September 06 General Meeting focussed on the issue of membership of CCC which had sharply declined following the administration of affiliated Membership to Regional Councils by the BCA. It had become apparent that we couldn't rely on BCA to administer & maintain our clubs membership and that we would have to take back responsibility for recording membership ourselves. Unfortunately due to work and family commitments, I was unable to spend the time needed to tackle this issue.

Thanks to the many hours of hard work put in by Mike McCombe, with the assistance of Elsie Little, many of the previous CCC member clubs which had slipped through the net are now back with us. Welcome back! We have still not contacted all previous member clubs some of which also did not become members of BCA following the change from NCA membership, which we used to collect subscriptions for. As well as losing many of our members for us, BCA had also therefore succeeded in losing some of their potential membership during the changeover.

Some of these clubs who are not BCA members may eventually return to the fold and become CCC members through affiliation as part of BCA membership. Others, possibly disillusioned by BCA, may still wish to become CCC members through direct 'Associate membership' of CCC. What is clear though is that we will have to maintain and develop the relationship with our members directly.

A very positive move in this direction is the development of an e-mail Newsletter to our membership on a quarterly basis. This is being organised by Robin Weare as Editor. It is my suggestion that this position becomes an elected Officer post on the Committee and hopefully one that Robin will stand for. *

In this digital age, along with environmental and financial considerations, the main method of communication with our membership is via the internet. With the Website, new Cave Registry, Newsletter and e-mails we have several ways to keep in touch with and inform our member clubs. This does however rely on Clubs keeping us up-to-date with their contact e-mail addresses and then perhaps forwarding on e-mails and Newsletters to their individual members and perhaps making the occasional hard copy available to the digitally disadvantaged.

My request to Club secretaries is that they can keep us updated with the correct contact details! Despite this it is still apparent we need to help this whole process along and, as Mike has done, spend a lot of time phoning around and chasing up contact details etc. As well as this we also need to gain other additional information about our clubs such as Gender mix etc. which can be valuable information when we are making a SCW Governing Body Grant application.

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With all of the above in mind there is still a lot of work for the CCC Secretary to do just to maintain the status quo let alone proactively develop our services to members. As previously stated, I am not presently in a position to be able to provide the commitment the job demands. I am therefore offering to stand down at this AGM for someone else to take on the challenge.

If someone else with can be found to take on all the roles of CCC Secretary then I believe this would be the best solution to ensure continuity and progression. Alternatively I am happy to continue in a limited role which includes attending meetings and recording and distributing minutes, fielding enquiries etc. There would still need to be work done to do with membership and I believe this could be done under a separate elected role of Membership Secretary. *

* I am therefore proposing an amendment to the constitution in 7.1 that Newsletter Editor (and Membership Secretary) become elected Officer posts.

Ian Healey. CCC Sec, March 07

At the meeting:

The meeting decided not to change the constitution as additional help to the committee can already be co-opted. RW offered to help the Secretary out with membership matters.

7c Treasurer's Report: Written Report below:

**CAMBRIAN CAVING COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2006**

Taking account of the £2000 Safety Grant brought forward from 2005, there was an actual surplus of income over expenditure of £487.31. Even allowing for this year's figures including two year's interest from the reserve account, this represents an increase on the previous year.

At the time of writing, we have not yet heard the outcome of our SCW grant application for the coming year. To support this application, a considerable amount of effort was needed to establish the status of member clubs.

Entitlement to Core Funding from BCA is based on actual expenditure on eligible items shown in the audited accounts. Analysis of our 2005 accounts showed that we had received an over-payment of £64.95 which will be recovered from future grants.

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Subscriptions	£ 24.00	Travel	£ 282.80
NSB Interest ⁽¹⁾	£ 271.24	Postage & Stationery	£ 22.00
BCA Core Funding ⁽²⁾	£ 550.00	Accommodation	£ 20.00
SCW Grant	£ 600.00	Conservation & Access	£ 53.07
SCW Safety Grant 2006	£ 2000.00	Training Events	£ 420.00
		Rescue Dump	£ 60.00
		Grants to CROs	£ 4000.00
		Cambrian Cave Registry	£ 100.00
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TOTALS	£ 3445.24		£ 4957.93

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EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	£ (1512.69)
SAFETY GRANT 2005 B/F ⁽³⁾	£ 2000.00
BALANCE B/F 1st JAN 2006	£ 4799.35
<hr/> BALANCE C/F 31st DEC 2006	<hr/> £ 5286.66

The balance carried forward is held as

Reserve Account (National Savings):	£4523.62
Current Account:	£763.04

Notes

1. Interest paid on 31st December 2006 for 2005 and 2006
2. BCA Core Funding represents payment on account based on estimated eligible expenditure. Variations against actual expenditure may be used to adjust future payments.
3. The 2005 Safety Grant payments were shown as “Sundry Creditors” in the 2005 accounts as the money had been received from SCW but could not be distributed to CROs until January 2006.

M J McCombe Hon Treasurer, 2nd March 2007

At the meeting:

MM said CCC should plan spending a year ahead. There was not time at the meeting to discuss this fully under item 9.

7d Conservation Officer’s Report:

EL reported biggest concern at present was Access to Water Proposals being consulted on by Government. With regard to the coastline the proposals specifically exclude access to caves. In terms of Inland Water Access again cave access is excluded. This is even more worrying as many speleological sites are linked to water. 4WD & motorbikes off-road appear to be getting more rigorous policing. Generally a positive in terms of conservation and not an issue for cavers as we get permissions if crossing land to access caves.

7e Training Officer – written report below:

Nobody has made any requests of me outside the one to run a workshop. This is organised for the weekend of 26-27th May and will be based at either Trewern OEC or Llangorse climbing centre depending on the weather. The cost will be £10/head to cover expenses. Workshops will be run by CIC’s or aspirant CIC’s.

7f Equipment Officer – written report below:

In the past few months more has happened nationally than in the previous few years as regards the BCA E&T committee.

This cttee. finally met again, in the Midlands , after a lay off of far too long! The minutes of that meeting are available on the BCA website, they make for interesting reading but I will précis some of the ideas /outcomes here.

- Re. P-hangers.. what is being done is ,generally, being done well.

- The P-hanger remains the anchor of choice, having proved itself over time both underground and in test conditions.
- Moves are afoot to purchase more stock from the UK source, not China, as was mooted at some stage.
- Further testing will continue in various locations around the country to increase the range of data for the anchors in a variety of situations i.e. different rock type and resin combinations. ACTION- I am on the look-out for limestone beds with easy access for the **very** heavy industrial puller for some long term tests???? Thoughts to me please.
- **All** P-anchor installation and inspection data will eventually be available on the BCA website. Cambrian data has been offered to Bob Mehew, but declined at present as Bob is 'snowed under' with accounts. Our recording system meets the criteria, some do not...
- **Installer /inspector** training and assessment processes should be streamlined, with no more courses in 2007, but a series of national workshops starting in 2008. The requirement to install 1 anchor per year to remain valid has been removed..... at last!!

The next meeting of this cttee. has yet to be arranged.

The anchor stock in the Cambrian region is up to date re. inspections but those in Llanelly Quarry Pot may be slightly out of date, I'll keep you posted. As soon as we have access to the portable puller 'Jaws' we can start some spot checks. We have had no reported suspect anchors. Update please if any are known.

I am concerned about the P-anchors at Dinas Rock, I know that some are suspect but 'relatively' safe in use. Is there some way that we as a region can take on responsibility for them as say SRT training anchors ?? Could we not install some signs to dispense liability to users for other purposes?? Your thoughts would be appreciated. I will catch up with any debate afterwards.

Re. OFD (Edward's shortcut), Tunnel cave and DYO..... I will attempt to get up to speed with the fixed aid situation in these caves soon. I know that some people have asked for assistance and I know that some valiant individuals have responded. Any update would be much appreciated and I will help where I can.

I would like to add my thanks to Barry, another valiant individual, for taking on the ladder constructor mantle, I am just sorry that I couldn't help much with his technical queries when he rang recently.

Equipment Officer

I am happy to stand again for election to the post and just as happy to assist a.n. other who may be elected.

Dave Ludlam / Andy Lewington

At the meeting:

The bolts at Dinas Rock were discussed. Meeting decided that the Equipment Officer would write to users of the crag – Heads of Centres, MLTB& private activity providers (GE has list of private providers) to state that bolts would be removed at end of year. This will hopefully give users the opportunity to make alternative

arrangements perhaps via BMC. In the meantime the bolts will be tested when the testing equipment becomes available to DL.

7g Development (Legal & Insurance) Officer:

No report.

7h Cambrian Cave Registry:

GE reported that this has been 4 years in the making and that so far 25 days work had been done with about 5 days worth of work left to do. It is time consuming work because existing data cannot be converted digitally using OCR but must be typed in.

Planned launch date for the live version of the Registry on a website probably hosted by BCA is 31 May 2007. A suggested Domain name for the Site is “Underground Wales”. GE will contact Martyn Farr, who has a book published with the same name, to see if he has any concerns.

A few sensitive sites will only have 4 figure grid references on the internet version to aid conservation.

SM gave thanks on behalf of the committee for GE’s work.

7i Webmaster – written report below:

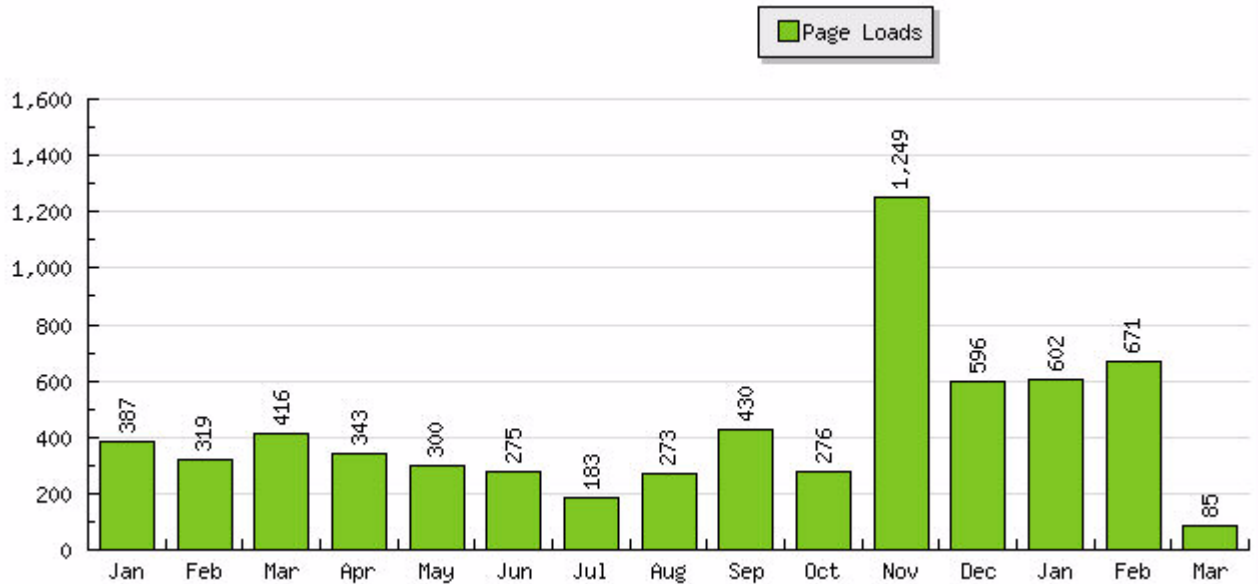
The CCC website has been available throughout 2006 with no downtime reported. In November 2006 the website was totally redesigned giving it a clean fresh look with no gimmicks, as this website is for easy access to information within the Cambrian region. Since this new look website went live more people have been visiting it, as the graph below confirms. I have also removed our static diary and incorporated the BCA on-line diary within our site, this is so that you have access to the most up to date caving related diary.

Visitors to our website has increased dramatically through 2006 and 2007 is looking busy even though we are only a couple of months in. I suspect that traffic will increase a lot more once we have the cave registry on-line.

We now have the latest Newsletters available on-line to view / download

Something else for you all to think about, is whether you would like to see AGM / Committee Meeting minutes / Constitution available on our website, like the NCC , SCC and BCA.

I am willing to continue as Webmaster for another year unless anyone else wants to take the job on.



At the meeting:

It was decided that approved Minutes from meetings and the Constitution would be put on the website.

7j Newsletter Editor – written report below:

Following my appointment as Newsletter Editor I contacted the Cambrian Caving Council's committee members to set parameters. I then advised the region's cave management committees and rescue teams of my appointment and plans, requesting input. With considerable, and much appreciated, assistance from the Treasurer I set up a database of member clubs and the first newsletter was produced and distributed on 31st January 2007. I am most grateful to those who provided input. The intention is to produce a newsletter each quarter

At the meeting:

RW was happy to continue as Newsletter Editor but not if it became an elected post!

8. Other Cambrian Representative Reports:

8a OFD Management Committee – written report below:

The top entrance and the area at the base of the Cwmdwr shaft have both been stabilised and the work on the Cwmdwr shaft was scheduled for completion over Christmas. Graffiti in the mud at Timo's Table has been removed. The three broken pieces of the Trident formation are being safely preserved and research continues into the best method of ensuring a lasting repair. The damage is not thought to have arisen from caver action. A bolt has been added at the Crevasse in order to protect the formations and the other bolts there have been replaced.

SWCC are to be asked to set up a committee to review bolting in the cave, hopefully to report back at the December 2007 meeting.

In the year ended December 2006 there were 678 trips in the system – two thirds in Top entrance and over two thirds by annual permit holders. A model trip ticket is now on display at Penwyllt.

The quarry owners, Tarmac, have been contacted in connection with the poor state of the access road.

The access conditions shown on the SWCC website have been updated and are now correct.

8b Sports Council for Wales & WSA/OPG :

SM reported that a caving expedition had been awarded overseas funding from the SCW. No OPG meetings had been held since Sept 2006.

8c BBNP ARAG:

EL reported that the future of Local Access Forums was under review but the importance of attending meetings was that we provided a presence and kept caving on the agenda.

8d FODCCAG – written report from MF below:

Permit system with Forestry Commission (FC) still working ok including requests for permits to cave dive at Noxom Park. Meetings with FC now on a yearly basis.

Bats: monitoring of hibernating bats is continuing using the same criteria as the 2005 bat project and the Natural England/FC/FODCCAG bat monitoring protocol. Work for NE/FC on grilling work at a number of cave and mine sites is ongoing. Recent discovery of a large greater horseshoe bat colony coupled with signs of drug users at the site has added another mine site to the grilling list.

Radon project ongoing. One mine site on the North Cotswolds has had the lock cut of with a disc cutter (*by persons unknown*).

8e Mynydd LlangattockCMC:

SF reported the following:

A new police officer in Crickhowell has led again to the issue of carparking at Whitewalls coming under investigation. SF said if anyone wrote to him describing the problem with ‘locals’ he would take letters/e-mails to the police to demonstrate a case of harassment.

Craig-a-Ffynnon Management Group want a new key secretary. MLCMC can't take it on as it's out of the area.

8f Dan yr Ogof C.A.C

BW reported that presently there was no CCC rep. MM said he would like to be rep.

2 major digs still underway in DYO – both very promising. Access between Cathedral & Tunnel Caves hopefully again possible by mid summer allowing the possibility of through trips once again.

8g Pwll Ddu C.M.G.

Nothing reported.

8h Waterfalls & Safety Advisory Group (WASAG):

Nothing to report. In the local area though the access arrangements for the Little Neath Caves is continuing well.

8i Castlemartin Range

No news or progress.

8j CCW Wales Access Forum:

Nothing reported

8k National Access Forums:

No rep.

8l Cave Rescue Organisations:

WBCRT Rescues in 2006/2007

Date	Cave	Description	Club	Hours
23.03.06	OFD 2	Lost in Cwm Dwr	York University	5
06.05.06	Gelli, Rhondda	Dog Rescue	Successful	3
17.06.06	Pwll Dyfn Valley	Sheep Rescue	Successful	2
07.10.06	OFD 2	Overdue Party	Hywel Davies, SWCC	0.5
04.11.06	Llethrid Swallet	Unable to pass obstruction	Andy Sewell, WSG	6
12.11.06	OFD 2	Overdue Party	Southampton Uni CC	2
23.11.06	Penwyllt Quarry	Sheep Rescue	Successful	1
16.01.07	Rhigos	Dog Rescue	Successful	5
21.01.07	Ogof Ffynnon	Fall in entrance	Kayleigh Gilkes, UBSS	6.5
18.03.07	Agen Allwedd	Lost Party	3 from Sheffield Uni SS	10

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WBCRT Annual General Meeting 2007

At the WBCRT AGM on Sunday 13th January 2007, the following Officers were elected to stand for the next 12 months :

Officers		Ordinary Members	Mid Wales Wardens
Chairman	Fred	Rhys Williams	John Lister
Levett		Nickey Bayley	Alan Braybrooke
Secretary	Mandie	Bridget Hall	Clive Edwards
Edgeworth		Steve Rose	Idris Williams
Treasurer	Pat Hall	Pete Hobson	
Equipment Officer	Ali		Representatives of Other Organisations
Garman		Wardens	Andy Harp – Welsh Section CDG
Equipment Development Officer	Vince	Gary Evans	Pete Dobson – SWCC Rescue Officer
Allkins		Toby Dryden	
First Aid Officer	Gary	Brian Jopling	
Evans		John Lister	
Training Officer	Toby	Pete Dobson	
Dryden		Ali Garman	
Communications Officer	Pete	Jules Carter	
Dobson			
Fundraising Manager	Brian		
Jopling			

WBCRT Cave Rescue Training Programme 2007

25th February (Sunday) – SWSARA Joint Practice

To be hosted by Central Beacons MRT, this is the annual joint Rescue practice between South Wales Cave and Mountain Rescue Teams.

31st March (Saturday) – OFD 1

Cave Rescue scenario in the Waterfall series of OFD 1. Meet at Penwyllt at 9.30am.

7th July (Saturday) – Little Neath River Cave & Bridge Cave

We will have 3 objectives for the day: to move a casualty through the entrance series of LNRC, to bring a casualty out of Bridge Cave and to work with Cave Rescue Divers undertaking a scenario through the sump between the 2 caves.

1st September (Saturday) – Tunnel Cave

Cave Rescue Scenario bringing a casualty down through the cave to the show cave.

8th September (Saturday) – Wet Sink GCRG Joint Practice

A Joint Cave Rescue practice at Wet Sink with Gloucester Cave Rescue Group.

3rd November (Saturday) – GCRT Joint Practice

Venue to be decided.

12th January, 2008 (Saturday) – OFD 2

Major practice in Creek Alley in Ogor Ffynnon Ddu 2.

Further details will be mailed to the Team e-mail list throughout the year and regularly updated on the WBCRT Website at www.wbcrt.org

If you have any training queries or requests then please contact :

The WBCRT Training Officer – Toby Dryden, on :
tobydryden@lineone.net or tel. 07967 144660

For first aid or medical training queries or requests then please contact Gary Evans on gary@swcro.fsnet.co.uk or tel. 07836 748752

A big thanks to all those who supported and attended the 2006 training programme events.

At the meeting:

GE noted that it was interesting that only one donation was received from a rescued party whereas previously most had donated.

Gloucester Cave Rescue Group (GCRG):

PT reported 2 cave rescue incidents – a diabetic & an overdue party.
Training continues including joint practice in Sept.
There had been a recent arson attack at the rescue depot in Cinderford.

9 CCC Spending on Projects 2007-8:

Not enough time at meeting to discuss this item fully. Member clubs will be encouraged to put applications to the committee for funding that will develop the sport of caving for all.

10 BCA Matters:

Nothing discussed at meeting. Latest news and developments are on the BCA Website.

11 Election of Officers:

Officer Post	Person elected	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Sue Mabbett	RW	PT
Secretary	Ian Healey	SM	GE
Treasurer	Mike McCombe	EL	MF
Conservation	Elsie Little	JH	AL
Training	Richard Hill	IH	SM
Equipment	Dave Ludlam	GE	PT
Registrar	Gary Evans	SM	BH
Development (Legal & Ins)	(Owen Clarke)	To be co-opted after meeting	

There were also nominated representatives to attend various cave access committee meetings, WSA meetings and access meetings. These reps are not voted for but the following volunteers were accepted by the meeting.

OFD Management Committee – Robin Weare
Sports Council for Wales & WSA/OPG - Sue Mabbett
BBNP ARAG - Elsie Little
FODCCAG – Maurice Fevry
Mynydd LlangattockCMC – Stuart France
Dan yr Ogof C.A.C – Mike McCombe
Pwll Ddu C.M.G. – Sue Mabbett
Waterfalls & Safety Advisory Group (WASAG) – Elsie Little
Castlemartin Range – Elsie Little
CCW Wales Access Forum – Elsie Little

12 AOB:

A ladder made by BH for use on the Balcony Pitch will be given to Pwll Du CMG who will then take responsibility for testing and installation and maintenance.

There is soon to be a meeting with the Crown Mineral Agents to discuss access to the Cwmystwyth Mines that have been gated.

Warnings:

The boulders at the top of Pwll Dyfn are loose and need stabilising.

The key for Agen Allwedd has been stolen and the perpetrators have the potential to get in and take any equipment left near the entrance.

13 Date and Location of next CCC Meeting:

11am Sun 9th September at Gloucestershire Cave Rescue Depot, Cinderford, Forest of Dean.