

**Minutes of the Cambrian Caving Council General Meeting on 9th
Sept 2007, at GCRG Depot**

Initials in bold = action points

Present:	Club/Organisation Representing:	CCC Position:
Joe Duxbury	(JD) GSS	
Pal Taylor	(PT) GCRG, FODCCAG	
Dave Ludlam	(DL)	Equipment
Adrian Fawcett	(AF) Chelsea SS, MLCMAC Rep, GCRT	
Owen Clarke	(OC) Cwmbran	Legal & Insurance
Ian Healey	(IH)	CCC Sec
Sue Mabbett	(SM)	CCC Chair
Barry Hill	(BH) Hereford CC	Webmaster
Mike McCombe	(MM) Newbury & District	Treasurer
Robin Weare	(RW) Hades, OFD Rep.	Newsletter Editor

1 Chairperson's Opening Remarks:

SM thanked GCRG for hosting the meeting and said that it was a good opportunity for those present to see the depot. SM also thanked those present for attending.

2 Apologies for Absence:

Rich Hill,	Training Officer
Maurice Febry,	FODCCAG
Bernie Woodley,	Ass. Conservation Officer
John Hine,	FODCCAG
Elsie Little,	Conservation Officer
Gary Evans,	Cambrian Cave Registry
Andy Lewington,	Ass. Equipment Officer

3 Minutes of the AGM:

The minutes of the AGM were proposed as a true record by SM & seconded by PT with no dissention.

4 Matters Arising:

Item 7f from AGM was discussed. Agreed that minutes re. P-anchors at Dinas were correct record of AGM meeting. It was confirmed that a written record exists stating that when the Dinas Rock P-bolts were installed that it was under the premise and agreement that CCC would not be taking responsibility for their ongoing maintenance. **DL** to inform AHOEC of this and to also send **IH** a photocopy of written record to attach to archive copy of these minutes. **AL** contacting BMC re anchors. **DL** also informed meeting that equipment for testing bolts (puler) is no longer to be part of BCA approved inspection regime.

5 Applications for Membership:

None received. However there are some new clubs who have become members via the BCA route. **MM** to inform IH of names of clubs.

6 Officers Reports:

6a Chairperson:

SM has attended SCW meets. Grants for expeditions are now to be administered by WSA (voluntary group for sports clubs) but applications will still have to initially be sent to SCW. Groups wishing to apply will have to be Welsh, have Welsh parentage or be resident in Wales for majority of expedition members to be eligible. CCC has again been offered a Safety Grant to administer to eligible CRO's. SM has also attended BCA meetings. BCA have now given up seeking funding from UK Sport. Still some delays this year with getting cards out but situation should improve with new administration & systems now in place.

6b Secretary:

IH had little to report since AGM. Received correspondence had been minimal. Meeting was informed of potential training courses that were available for Officers through SCW funding for administrative type skills. However it was decided that there were already appropriate skills within the committee and it is unlikely further training was necessary.

6c Treasurer's Report: Written Report below:

CAMBRIAN CAVING COUNCIL TREASURER'S REPORT 9 SEPTEMBER 2007

- Income from BCA is based on our actual "core" expenditure and will be reduced significantly this year to £150 (previous years were £550) to claw back cumulative over-payments.
- SCW continue to be our largest source of income and have offered us a four year agreement for Development Grant funding. Whilst this will involve a lot more work at the outset in creating a four year plan, it gives us a great deal more security and flexibility. Any offers of assistance in preparing the plan, particularly the Training section, would be gratefully accepted!
- Membership administration continues to require a substantial amount of work. SCW require additional membership data not collected by BCA (e.g. separate figures for males and females, adults and juniors). Also, thirteen of our member clubs do not appear to have renewed their Cambrian membership via BCA. Unless we can persuade BCA to modify their processes, we will need to continue to contact every club individually every year, duplicating much of the work done by BCA.

- SCW Safety Grant forms are currently with the three Welsh Cave Rescue Teams and are due to be returned to me by the end of September. We need to hold a committee meeting (ideally in October) to decide on the allocations.
- BCA Finance Committee formally agreed my proposal to fund Welsh Access Control Bodies. So far, only FoDCCAG have made an application.

Overall, our finances remain in a very healthy state (current account balance is £1213.44), the main challenge being to stimulate enough genuine development activity to spend the money available to us!

Mike McCombe
3rd September 2007

Following MM's written and verbal report re. difficulty getting membership details from clubs and establishing no's of Trainers (Local Cave Leaders/CIC's) SM said she would bring the matter up at the next BCA meeting. The hope is that the BCA Training Officer and Membership Secretary will be able to help in these matters. MM notified meeting that Safety Grant applications needed to be in by end of Sept. and then there would need to be a committee meeting convened to discuss them.

6d Conservation Officer's Report: written report below

- 1 The boards about caving at Porth yr Ogof are being changed. We have been consulted and given input. Hopefully it will result in a sensible clear board. I have also strongly suggested that, because of the history of the site, the regular meetings be resumed.
- 2 Contrary to the letter put in Descent by Clark there is no problem of access in the Neath Valley. The Lewis family of Blaen Nedd have agreed to indefinitely extend the agreement with CCC. I will draft a note to the appropriate effect on my return and also send Barry a précis for the web-site.
- 3 NAFW meets on 12/13th Sept and I hope to make headway with the military over access then.
- 4 We have joined with other outdoor pursuit interests to negotiate re access to the coast believing in joint pressure. As yet it is slow.

EL

6e Training Officer

SM offered thanks to RH for organising the successful CCC caver training weekend in May.

RH (who wasn't present) has expressed his wish to stand down from the position of Training Officer but has offered his assistance in helping with a training event in the future.

The position of Training Officer will remain vacant until the next AGM.

DL will ask at the next South Wales Region Trainer/Assessor Panel meeting to see if any of the panel members are interested in standing for the position. The position will also of course be available for other nominees.

6f Equipment Officer

DL said there was little to report. There have been no reports of suspect anchors in the region and the inspection regime is up to date. The last meeting of the BCA Equipment Committee involved lots of discussion about bolts in Rhino Rift etc. as already reported elsewhere.

6g Legal & Insurance Officer:

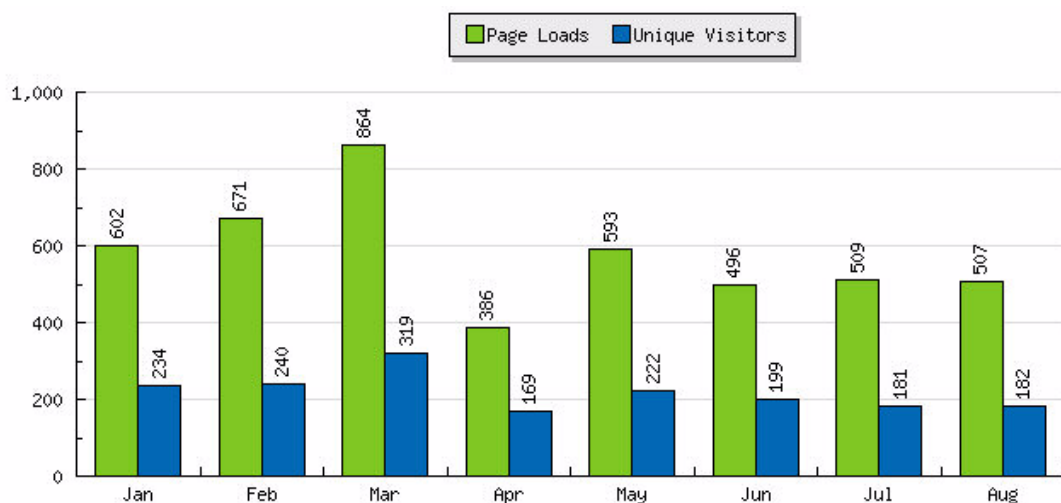
Nothing to report.

6h Cambrian Cave Registry:

Registry is now complete and waiting to be uploaded on to a website in an appropriate secure format. This has presently been delayed while GE was waiting for an offer to have the Registry uploaded for free to take place. As this has not yet happened and has no defined timescale to happen the meeting discussed alternative options. It was decided that **RW** would contact GE to find out about the technical aspects required and then to advertise in the CCC Newsletter to seek a volunteer prepared to carry out the required work by Christmas. Similarly, **BH** to place an advert on the ‘volunteer page’ of the website. If a volunteer hasn’t been found and the work done by Jan then **SM** will raise the subject at the Jan BCA meeting. It could be of value to other regions if the relevant software was purchased and made available for similar projects.

6i Webmaster – written report below:

As you can see from the statistics below the website is still being well used. I have been updating the site as and when information gets to me.



August figures will be higher than shown as this report has been made before end of month. Barry Hill (CCC Webmaster)

At the meeting:

IH to e-mail approved Minutes of AGM to BH to go on to the website.

Swindon are presently down on the website as potential accommodation. This is to be removed as a condition of their lease is they are not allowed visitors.

MM offered to be a first point of contact by e-mail to CCC and to be listed on the website as such.

6j Newsletter Editor – written report below:

Newsletter Editor's Report

Newsletters were produced and distributed in April and July and copies have been placed on the CCC website. I've managed to discover a few extra addresses and the distribution list currently totals 36 clubs as well as the Cambrian officers, local cave management committees and rescue teams. All distribution is by e-mail and only one address (Cardiff University CC) regularly remains undeliverable. I'll work on that when the new academic year gets under way.

I remain grateful to anyone who provides me with something to include and especially so to those who have already become regular contributors. Others will be welcomed and I would remind everyone that if you provide contributions voluntarily you're much less likely to be badgered as the deadline approaches.

As I'll be on holiday for a month from mid October the next edition will either appear early or late. I'll be aiming for early but it will depend on how busy I am at the time.

Robin Weare
August 2007

The next Newsletter will either be published early or late as RW is away mid Oct – mid Nov.

SM proposed a vote of thanks to all Officers for their contributions and work.
Seconded OC.

7. Other Cambrian Representative Reports:

7a OFD Management Committee – written report below:

OFD Representative's Report

There was a glitch, but I understand that SWCC have now been asked to set up a committee to review bolting in the cave. It is still hoped that it will report back at the December 2007 meeting.

The access road to Penwyllt was reported to have been scraped twice by Tarmac – it was experienced to be greatly improved.

The repair to the Trident has been completed.

A weather station has been installed on the reserve by CCW.

Robin Weare
August 2007

7b Sports Council for Wales & WSA/OPG :

See 6a. No OPG meeting for a while.

8c BBNP ARAG:

No report

7d FODCCAG

PT reported than generally things had been quiet. There is to be a meeting in Oct and the FC has a new employee dealing with access.

7e Mynydd LlangattockCMC:

AF reported that in the near future it was likely that Craig-a-Ffynnon access would be administered by MLCMC.

It was also confirmed that Lynne Bailey remains the key secretary.

7f Dan yr Ogof C.A.C – written report below:

- There are now approximately fifty wardens who have renewed their permits since June and several new applications each month.
- An application will be made to CCC for financial support for the administration costs, particularly permit renewal, which has for the first time been made free of charge to existing wardens.
- Fixed aids in the cave have been upgraded with the help of a £500 grant from the Brecon Beacons National Park. This has included the installation of a stainless steel fixed ladder on the Abyss which, it is hoped, will encourage more parties to do the Round Trip in the upward direction and ensure that flotation aids do not all end up at the far end of the Green Canal. The route up The Rising, the Birthday Passage traverses and the North Aven have now been fitted with fixed lines on stainless steel canyon anchors. Only the Great North Road pitch needs to be rigged in order to reach the Far North. The chain ladder at The Rising will shortly be replaced with a new stainless steel chain ladder.
- Work on the airlock between Tunnel Cave and Cathedral Cave has been completed and a new “caver flap” will shortly be installed in the outer gate to Cathedral Cave. Once this has been done, access arrangements for through-trips will be published.
- The annual Wardens’ Meeting is due to be held on 17th November at the Copper Beech. Invitations will go out to wardens shortly.

Mike McCombe
3rd September 2007

7g Pwll Ddu C.M.G.

No recent meetings.

7h Waterfalls & Safety Advisory Group (WASAG):

EL suggests this group start meeting again regularly.

7i Castlemartin Range: No report

7j CCW Wales Access Forum: No report

7k National Access Forums: No report

7l Cave Rescue Organisations:

GCRG- A successful training exercise was held in Wet Sink on 78th Sept

The Gwent Team is to continue to operate. There is a surface based rescue practice on 30th Sept and it is hoped there will be a good turn out and renewed interest.

7m Librarian's Report:

OC reported that there had been no visits to the CCC Library that he maintains and that he recommends 'ditching' the journals as they are likely to be held by BCRA. JD suggested offering them back to the respective clubs. SM suggested giving the library to the National Welsh Library. No decisions were made.

8 CCC Spending on Projects 2007-8:

9 BCA Matters:

BCA cards were again late being issued but a lot of hard work has been done by the new Membership Sec. The back logs were sorted but difficulty remained with getting cards to new members of clubs.

There are some issues to update on the constitution but these are being postponed at present due to the bureaucracy of having to put the proposals to every member.

Things are generally now looking positive and the various officers know their budgets.

10 AOB:

The ladder for Draenen has been handed over to Ali Garman.

PT requested funding of £50 towards training exercises for GCRG. This was agreed on the basis that PT puts request in writing to MM.

11 Date and Location of CCC AGM:

10:30am 9th March 2008 at Storey Arms Outdoor Education Centre, Libanus. Lunch will be available afterwards.