

Cambrian Caving Council AGM 2015

Secretary's Report

The secretaries post has seen quite a few challenges over the past year and no doubt these will continue. The application for the Sport Wales National Governing Body membership has been submitted, but since Sport Wales have changed their year end to April we will not know the result till then. Membership provides a small fund for training and also allows CCC to claim the Sports Safety Grant(SSG) from the Welsh Sports Association. The latter also fund the Overseas Expedition Grant(OEG) which has provided funding for many international caving trips in the past.

Sadly, further cuts in the funding to Sport Wales/WSA may mean that the SSG and OEG may no longer be available. I think we were quite lucky in 2014 that both grants were issued, albeit with a delay and less money. Both the Welsh Cave Rescue organisations benefitted from a grant of £800 each via the SSG and Robin Weare's expedition to Oromia in October received the requested funding. I have asked the WSA about the expedition grants for 2015/2016 and have been told that clubs/individuals should apply using the forms on the WSA website by 13th March 2015, but will then have to wait see if funding is provided.

I have attended a couple of meetings with representatives from the BMC, Ramblers Wales and the BCU to discuss access policies in the light of the proposed Welsh Assembly green paper. Sadly this was shelved but is likely to re-surface after the elections. Natural Resources Wales are leading a campaign to encourage outdoor exercise and are promoting the coastal paths etc. as an aid to a healthier lifestyle.

I have also attended the BCA council meetings as CCC rep.

Collecting information on member clubs and membership figures for the Sport Wales paperwork takes some time. The BCA do their best to provide some information but there are often anomalies to resolve. A lot of work goes into keeping contact lists up to date as many clubs don't provide secretaries email addresses on their websites for fear of spam and often these are out of date anyway.

Dave Tyson