

Cambrian Caving Council AGM 2016

Secretary's Report

It has been a bit of a mixed year overall. The council were awarded £500 by Sport Wales and continue to be recognised as the representative body for the sport of caving. An application has been submitted for this coming year, however since the Sport Wales year end is now April, we will not know the result till then.

I started the process of submitting applications to the Welsh Sports Association for the Sports Safety Grant on behalf of the two Welsh Cave Rescue organisations in September/October. Traditionally CCC act as the clearing house for the applications and the grant money was paid to us and then passed on to both CRO's. I had discussions with the new WSA business officer who suggested that for future applications the CRO's could deal direct, but for this year she was happy to use the old scheme and offered £1500 funding to split between NWCRO and SMWCRT. I had just sent off all the paperwork when the WSA had a change of heart and decided they wanted to deal direct with both CRO's this year and as a sweetener offered £1500 to each. In a mad flurry both CRO's rejigged their applications and I guess they have now received their money.

CCC are now out of the safety award loop and so I no longer have a challenge of nagging the teams to get the paperwork to me on time – that falls directly on their shoulders. The WSA Expedition Grants were lost last year in the round of funding cuts and it is unlikely they will be resurrected.

CCC has submitted a response to the Welsh Governments Green Paper on “Improving opportunities to access the outdoors for responsible recreation”. Nothing has been heard so far, there were a lot of responses and these will take a lot of time to process. It is unlikely that any firm proposals will appear for another year or two.

I have attended a couple of meetings with Stuart France and representatives of PDCMG chaired by Andrew Hinde, the BCA Conservation & access officer, to try and come to a compromise regarding access to Draenen via Dwrs Cefn. Sadly these have broken down and it would appear that the landowner and PDCMG want no access via this entrance which is on CRoW land.

I have also attended the BCA council meetings as CCC rep and continue to spend a lot of time managing the Cave Access Limited agreement with National Resources Wales for access to sites on their land.

One action which was outstanding from the last AGM was to look at the CCC Constitution with a view to altering it to deal with caves and mines separately and also investigate representation for DIM's as well as clubs. I haven't made much progress on this, partly as I wanted to see if the BCA were going to streamline the membership system and also because I need to elicit some feedback on mine conservation. If re-elected I hope to be able to look at this in detail and bring proposals before the next AGM which will have wide support.

Dave Tyson