

CAMBRIAN CAVING COUNCIL NEWSLETTER January 2009

Editorial

On and off over the last few years I've moved away from my more regular caving haunts and visited what have often turned out to be previously unexplored gems. I suspect that many of us tend to do most of our caving in the larger systems but there is so much more out there. I hope others will share their experiences of their own visits to what I've designated **Obscure Cambrian Caves** and I'd like to start the ball rolling with my most recent first experience. I threaten to continue in this vein for years and years unless others contribute. You have been warned.....

Robin Weare [e-mail](#)
Newsletter Editor

Community Chest Grants

This is a National Lottery funded grant aid scheme administered in our region by Sports Council Wales. It is designed to encourage more people to become more physically active more often. The maximum grant is £1,000 in any 12 month period.

Purpose of the Scheme:

The main purpose of the scheme is to support good projects which will create new or improved sport and physical activity opportunities. The scheme is intended to support activities which:

- encourage more people to become more physically active more often;
- encourage volunteers and community champions by developing new sport and physical activity leaders, sports coaches and officials.

The fill-in element of the form is 5 pages and the only real 'governance' requirement for caving is that the club is affiliated to CCC and has a bank account. The funding is devolved to 22 UA based local panels - it has been seen as a very effective way of supporting club development and funding for the training of volunteers has been made as easy as possible.

You can download a leaflet [here](#), or to get an application pack, please visit the [downloads](#) page.

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The Annual General Meeting of Cambrian Caving Council will be held at Penderyn Community Hall at 10am on Sun 8th March 2009

AGENDA

1. Chairperson's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of Sept General Meeting
4. Matters Arising from Mins of Sept General Meeting
5. Constitution – see proposed amendments attached
6. Applications for Membership
7. Officer's Reports (Written reports previously circulated by e-mail, where possible)
 - 7a Chairperson 7b Secretary 7c Treasurer 7d Conservation Officer
 - 7e Training Officer 7f Equipment Officer 7g Legal & Insurance Officer
 - 7h Cambrian Cave Registry 7i Website
8. Other Cambrian Representative Reports (Written reports previously circulated by e-mail where possible)
 - 8a. OFD Management Committee 8b. Sports Council for Wales and WSA/OPG
 - 8c. BBNP ARAG 8d. FODCCAG
 - 8e Mynydd Llangattock C M C 8f Dan yr Ogof C.A.C
 - 8g Pwll Ddu C.M.G 8h Waterfalls and Safety Advisory Group.
 - 8i Castlemartin Range 8j Welsh Mines Society
 - 8k National Access Forum 8l Cave Rescue Organisations 8m Newsletter Editor
9. CCC Spending on Projects 2008-9
10. BCA Matters
11. Election of Officers
12. A Welsh National Caving Library. Is it needed? If so, where should it be?
13. AOB
14. Date and Location of CCC General Meeting Sept 2009

If you are able to send a representative for your club please indicate their intention to attend by e-mailing: secretary@cambriancavingcouncil.org.uk

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Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

Three changes to the constitution have been proposed as follows :-

Firstly, paragraph 5.2 from the section on “Membership”, currently reads.....

5.2 An individual shall be considered an Associate Member of the Council if

- He is a member of the British Caving Association

He has declared on his British Caving Association membership form that his principal regional council is Cambrian Caving Council

It is proposed to change this to read.....

5.2 An individual shall be considered an Associate Member of the Council if

- The individual is a member of the British Caving Association

The individual has declared on their British Caving Association membership form that their principal regional council is Cambrian Caving Council

Secondly, paragraph 8.2 from the section on “Procedure and business for general meetings” currently reads.....

8.2 Each Full Member-Club or Officer shall give the Hon. Secretary at least six weeks' notice in writing of any notice of motion, constitutional amendments, proposal, or matter it (he) wishes to have placed on the agenda for the meeting.

It is proposed to change this to read.....

8.2 Each Full Member-Club or Officer shall give the Hon. Secretary at least six weeks' notice in writing of any notice of motion, constitutional amendments, proposal, or matter they wish to have placed on the agenda for the meeting.

Thirdly, paragraph 8.6 from the section on “Procedure and business for general meetings” currently reads.....

8.6 Each year, the Council shall hold at least two General Meetings, including the Annual General Meeting, in order to: -

- a. accepts the minutes of the previous general meeting, and considers matters arising there from,
- b. consider applications for associate membership,
- c. receive Reports from the Officers,
- d. considers the audited statement of the accounts, and decides on the annual subscription (at AGM only),
- e. consider amendments to the Constitution,
- f. consider other proposals,
- g. discuss matters of interest and concern,

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- h. elects Officers for the ensuing year, and appoints an Hon. Auditor (at AGM only),
- i. decide the date of the next meeting,

It is proposed to change this to read.....

- 8.6 Each year, the Council shall hold an Annual General Meeting, in order to: -
- a. accept the minutes of the previous general meeting, and consider matters arising there from,
 - b. consider applications for associate membership,
 - c. receive Reports from the Officers,
 - d. consider the audited statement of the accounts, and decide on the annual subscription,
 - e. consider amendments to the Constitution,
 - f. consider other proposals,
 - g. discuss matters of interest and concern,
 - h. elect Officers for the ensuing year, and appoint an Hon. Auditor,
 - i. decide the date of the next meeting,

Otter Hole

The 2009 meets list has filled up very quickly with only one slot still available as I write. I also note with horror that all the best warden's slots have already gone.

A wardens meeting is planned for Friday 13th February; hopefully that choice of date will ensure better luck with the weather this year.

Ogof Ffynnon Ddu

All covers collecting keys from SWCC must use the Destination Board at the SWCC Headquarters. The OFD Management Committee has requested that when the trip ticket is completed **the name of your club is given in full**.

These tickets are used for a number of purposes, not least for rescue callout. The more information on the tickets the better so please fill them in properly.

For a guide to the proper completion of tickets visit the [SWCC website](#) and click on the ticket shown.

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Gwent Cave Rescue Team

The GCRT AGM was held on Monday 19th January at the Hobby Horse in Brynmawr, 15 people were present at the meeting.

Only one of the five executive members stood for re-election, so the executive team appointed at the meeting is substantially changed:

Chairman: Adrian Fawcett (CSS)
Secretary: Eleanor Jones (BCC)
Treasurer: John Stevens (CSS)
Equipment Officer: Stuart France (CSS)
Training Officer: Malcolm Reid (BCC)

It was also agreed to suggest that other local clubs that they nominate representatives to attend team meetings, to foster greater involvement by team members. Steve Waters already performs this role for Cwmbran Caving Club, and Dave Ebbs agreed to represent Hades. A representative from Gagendor is to be sought.

The main short-term priority for GCRT will be to consolidate its basic capabilities needed to respond to call-outs. One aspect of this is organising appropriate training sessions that will get more team members to attend, and to continue to appeal for more active cavers in the area to get involved.

The next team meeting will be held on Friday 27th February at 8 p.m. in the new library at Whitewalls.

Mynydd Llangatwg Committee

At the meeting in October the Officers were appointed for the next two years. They are:

Secretary and Warden for Daren Cilau: Adrian Fawcett
Warden for Daren Cilau: Andy Rimming
Warden for Craig a Ffynnon: Alan Brady
Warden for Agen Allwedd: John Stevens
Diving Warden: Gary Jones
Science officer (and unofficial warden for Ogof Capel): Stuart France
Media officer: Martyn Farr

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Flintshire Lead Mining Website

A new website from Cris Ebbs appeared earlier this month. For a site which describes itself as a “few pages put together simply to make available some of the information that's been lying around the house for too long” it contains plenty of interest and seems to be growing almost daily as he searches more of the household nooks and crannies.

You'll find it [here](#)

Obscure Cambrian Caves – Big Sink

Located in the Forest of Dean within easy reach of Symonds Yat and the multitude of short caves in the Symonds Yat cliffs, Big Sink was excavated by GSS about 10 years ago and I can't believe that I managed to avoid it for so long, visiting for the first time only a few months ago.

A typical Forest dig with scaffolding everywhere ultimately leads past a slightly damp patch to a superb 14m pitch and anyone who perseveres through the notorious 200m rift is well rewarded by the splendour of Formations Passage at the very end of the cave.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit which took about 4 hours. Other good caves in the area are Wet Sink, Redhouse Swallet, Miss Grace's Lane and of course Otter Hole.

The cave is gated and access is controlled by FoDCCAG e-mail permits@fodccag.co.uk

Diary

March 7 th	BCRA Cave Science Symposium Sheffield
March 8 th	Cambrian Caving Council AGM
March 12 th	FoDCCAG AGM
March 28 th	British Caving Association AGM
April 12 th	OFD Columns Open Day
April 17-19 th	BCRA Cave Technology Symposium SWCC
May 3 rd	OFD Columns Open Day
May 24 th	OFD Columns Open Day