



Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the British Caving Association

www.csccl.org.uk

Minutes of Annual General Meeting – Friday 12 May 2023

Draft 3 July 2023

1 Attendance

Voting Attendees

10 Voting reps

Alan Gray	Axbridge CG	AG	
Andrea	WCMS	AN	
Barry Wilkinson	White Rabbit CG	BW	
Chris	BEC	CR	
Dave Cooke	Cheddar CC	DC	Acting Treasurer/Webmaster
Dave King	MNRC	DK	
Frank Tully	WCC	FT	Secretary
Judi Durber	EECC	JD	
Linda Wilson	UBSS	LW	BCA Rep
Mark Tringham	GSS	MT	
Tom Harrison	MCG	TH	

Non Voting Attendees (Observers)

Andrew Thompson		WCC	
Chris Binding		CB	
Ed Waters		EW	Chair
Graham Mullan		GM	CCC Ltd rep
Wayne Starsmore		WS	

2 Apologies for Absence

Alan Dempster	Avon Scouts	AD
Peter Burgess	Wealden CMS	PB
Birmingham Student Caving Club		

Recording of the meeting

The meeting is being recorded for the purpose of minute taking

3 Approval of minutes from GM 13 Feb 2023

Minutes approved with corrections,
Proposed UBSS Seconded ACG, Vote passed Unanimous

4 Chairman's report Ed Waters

I have written a statement in the latest CSCC newsletter,
<https://csccl.org.uk/wiki/documents/start>

This is my last meeting as chair. I would like it to be known that Howard Jones is standing down as BCA treasurer later this year. I have written a letter to Howard thanking him for his support in recent times, he treated our financial issues in a very professional business like manner.

The second issue I would like to Dave King and Wayne Starsmore who have worked behind the scenes to make the pressure washers available for use.



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5 Secretary's report Frank Tully

Nothing significant to report, from the secretaries point of view it has been a quiet year.

Members of the meeting made it known that the secretary is showing contempt to the members of CSCC and the meeting by not submitting an annual report to the members prior to the meeting.

5.1 New Members

TH We have 39 members, 5 lapsed members and 3 new members.

Lapsed members:

Combined Services Caving Association,
Gagendor Caving Club,
Reading University Caving Club,
Shropshire Scout Caving Team,
Wimps and Y Anchors Caving Club.

New members, All are BCA members

Birmingham students caving club
Plymouth caving club
Westminster Speleological Group

Vote to accept the new members,

Proposed MCG, Seconded White Rabbit, passed Unanimous

Action on the secretary to send a welcome email to the new clubs.

Post meeting note, emails sent out 14 May.

6 C&A Report

I have written a statement in the latest CSCC newsletter,

<https://csccl.org.uk/wiki/documents/start>

6.1 Priddy Green Changing Barn

WS Subsequent to writing the report in the newsletter. The repairs to the Priddy Green Changing barn floor (Farmer Mains Barn) is on hold because potentially it may be changed into a visitors centre. The funding for fixing the floor of the barn is ring-fenced and will need to be returned if this work cannot take place.

6.2 Singing River Gate

Singing river access is ongoing, the gate is expected to cost £750 but the purchase and installation of a gate is dependant on a suitable access agreement.

EW Thanks for all the hard work over the last year

6.3 BCA C&A Working Group

WS The BCA C&A working group has approved our most recent claim. The BCA grant associated with this claim should be in our bank account soon.



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7 Treasurer

Report published in newsletter and draft accounts published on website,
<https://csccl.org.uk/wiki/documents/start>

7.1 Accounts

TH The final accounts are completed but there is an amendment because we are not going to put in a claim for a second Stoke Lane Slocker gate.

7.2 General

TH We have £2300 available, however if the Priddy Green changing barn money is returned we will not have much in the current account.

TH Thank you to Dave Cooke for his assistance handing over the role and scrutinising the accounts.

GM Do these accounts cover all the claims on expenditure.

EW The previous C&A officer has not submitted invoices for all the expenses he has stated that he has incurred. CSCC have contacted Graham Price on more than one occasion, requesting that he sends us invoices for his expenditure, so far we have not received an invoice or a reply to our correspondence.

7.3 Photography Workshop

The photography workshop cost £150 however only collected £100 in fees. Dave Keegan is being reimbursed for the full amount.

8 Equipment Officer

I have written a statement in the latest CSCC newsletter,
<https://csccl.org.uk/wiki/documents/start>

No questions from the meeting

9 Communications Officer

EW Pete Hall is standing down this year, having as communications officer has largely been a success and we look forward to finding a replacement.

LW We have a volunteer for a new communications officer.

JD Could we have more frequent reports on what is going on in the south, especially on social media.

10 Training Officer

EW There is SRT training course taking place 17-18 June.

DC The photography course last month was excellent, it was a pity that it was not better attended.



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11 BCA Representative

There is a full report on the website and a shortened report in the newsletter, <https://csccl.org.uk/wiki/documents/start>

LW The BCA C&A working group is now up and running, Richard Root from Devon is the convener.

LW In short, Josh White is taking over from Howard Jones as insurance manager, BCA's insurance agent has asked that all members be reminded that the insurance policy requires all incidents which could give rise to a claim are notified to BCA and their insurance brokers Howden as soon as the member becomes aware of any such. This is not a change to the process, but is intended to serve as a reminder of members' responsibilities under the insurance policy. Failure to do so may affect any claim on the policy.

LW Pete Glanville and others are working on behalf of BCA to hand out the Green BCA cards. Pete raised the issue with BCA council, that it is hard to justify handing out these cards both on costs and environmental grounds. The financial costs are in the order of £2-3000 per year. The proposal is that BCA develops an alternative to the card system. BCA are aware that this will need to be agreed with any bodies which currently require cavers to show the cards.

LW BCA needs a treasurer, BCA council is a lot more positive and is no longer like it was, if you know of anybody suitable please ask them if they might be interested. BCA also needs a communications officer, but so do we.

LW Thanks for everyone wishing me well whilst I was ill, I am now feeling a lot better and would be happy to continue being BCA rep for CSCC

DC There is a request for BCA funding from the Bendrig foundation and the Horner collection. These requests are somewhat open ended. Would it not be better that BCA have a budget for supporting these sort of funds?

LW This was discussed at council with the Bendrig foundation request, the Horner collection is yet to be discussed. From my point of view the difference between the two requests is the Horner collection really has national significance and I can see it being something we really should fund whatever. However I can see the need for the formal formation of a fund for this sort of requests. I think it would be worthwhile that the membership see BCA actually doing things.

EW Could LW and DC bring a formal proposal to the next CSCC general meeting, so that we can vote for CSCC to put this forward to BCA council.

Action on CSCC reps to take the intent of this proposal back to their clubs.

Action on LW and DC to sort some words for the proposal and circulate by email.



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12 IT Officer's Report

Webmasters report is in the newsletter. <https://csccl.org.uk/wiki/documents/start>

DC Should the officer position described as 'Webmaster' be changed to 'IT Officer'?

Vote proposed Chris BEC, Seconded JD EECC, 1 Abstention DC Cheddar, passed Nem Con

13 Forthcoming events

SRT training June

This is the 50th anniversary of Throup Lane Swallet, High Atlas pitch being opened up. There will be a day to clear up the swallet, Watch this space.

14 Amendment to CSCC Constitution or questions to the AGM

No amendments or questions to the AGM submitted.

15 Election of Officers

15.1 Posts with unopposed nominations

Andrew Atkinson	Equipment Officer
Dave Cooke	Webmaster - IT Officer
Frank Tully	Secretary
Linda Wilson	BCA Rep
Tom Harrison	Treasurer
Wayne Starsmore	Conservation & Access Officer

These nominations were voted on on block, vote accepted, Unanimously.

15.2 Posts without nominations

Posts without nominations at the start of the meeting, these posts are open for nomination from the floor of the meeting.

Chairman

No members stood for chair at the meeting.

EW **Could members take a request for a new CSCC chairman back to their respective committees**

Until a chair is elected a chair will be elected from the floor at the beginning each committee meeting.

Communications officer

Pete Burgess from the Wealdon has stood forward as Communications Officer

Proposed LW, Seconded DK, Vote passed unanimous.

Training officer

Dave Keegan has stood forward as Training Officer



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Proposed JD (EECC), Seconded LW, Vote passed unanimous.

Scrutineer for the accounts (Not an officer post) To be elected from the floor.

Dave Cooke has put himself forward as scrutineer of the accounts

Proposed JD (EECC), Seconded TH (MCG), vote passed unanimously.

16 AOB

16.1 Eastwater West End Series bolts

Andrew Thompson I have recently been down the West End series in Eastwater and the bolts are in a very poor state. I have put in a request for their replacement to the Equipment officer. Could I volunteer to receive some bolt placement training to assist the Equipment Officer in replacing these bolts?

EW I agree that the bolts in the west end series of Eastwater were not the best when I last visited, many kilograms ago. I would be happy for you to go forward for bolt placing training, please contact the Equipment Officer via the CSCC email address. I might add that Andrew is injured at the moment and has a number of projects on his list.

MT Should it not be publicised that the bolts are in poor condition?

DK Could this be a general reminder for all non-CSCC bolts on Mendip.

Action on comms officer to circulate a notice that the anchors in the West end of Eastwater are in poor condition, and should be treated with extra caution, like many non-CSCC bolts installed on Mendip.

16.2 Labels on Gates

Labels on Gates indicating where access keys can be sourced

PH We agreed last year that labels on gates would be a good idea, but at the time we did not have the finances.

EW Taking into account the treasurers report, I think this will have to be postponed again.

16.3 CSCC Keys

EW Raised earlier in the meeting, What happens to keys when CSCC membership lapses?

EW This is an issue which should perhaps be discussed further at future meetings. I believe the original intention of the CSCC gates and locks was to address landowner liability and public safety, and not restrict access to cavers. To this end keys have been handed out to both clubs and individuals. I cannot remember an instance where a key was handed back.



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LW This issue is complicated by how it is seen by landowners.

WS In my experience landowners have a very simplistic view, there are cavers and non-cavers. Keys held by cavers who are no longer members of CSCC are still cavers.

WS I would have an issue if that non-CSCC club was issuing keys to other people.

PH The keys have been purchased by the club. This is the sort of thing which should be discussed in the "Access workshop" whenever it takes place.

DK If a bona-fide caving club which is not a member of CSCS asks to have a key they would get a key.

Action on FT to add keys onto the agenda for the next meeting, this will include determining the function of the locks and policy on how keys should be managed.

Action on club reps to request guidance from their clubs.

16.4 Vote of thanks for the outgoing officers

LW I would like to propose a vote of thanks for Edd Waters for all the work he has put in as chair over the past few years, navigating CSCS through some difficult waters.

Seconded JD.

Vote of thanks passed Unanimous.

AG I would like to propose a vote of thanks to Pete Hall for his role as comms officer. He has produced a number of fine newsletters and managed the social media.

Vote Seconded JD.

Vote of thanks passed Unanimous



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17 CSCC Significant dates

Note. This is a list of important dates around the current CSCC year, which runs AGM to AGM. The dates of the AGM, notifications and deadlines are defined in the constitution, this is a reminder. Dates of meetings are initially decided at the AGM however they can be changed. Please consult the latest copy of the minutes or the agenda on the website.

Please note Meetings have been spaced evenly throughout the year, following the AGM which is fixed in the constitution and is traditionally the second Saturday in May. This was requested in the November meeting 2022.

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Friday	12 May 2023	19:00	AGM	Zoom
Wed	16 August 2023	19:00	GM	Zoom
Wed	15 Nov 2023	19:00	GM	Zoom
Wednesday	1 Feb 2024	23:59	Notification to of upcoming AGM, <u>This is the notification.</u>	
Wednesday	13 Feb 2024	19:00	GM	Zoom
Friday	15 March 2024	23:59	Deadline for AGM nominations	
Friday	15 March 2024	19:00	Deadline for AGM constitutional amendments	
Monday	1 April 2024	23:59	Notification to members of AGM nominations	
Friday	10 May 2024	19:00	AGM	Zoom

Meeting duration 1h50

Corrections