

Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the British Caving Association

www.csc.org.uk

Minutes of General Meeting – Wednesday 16 August 2023

Draft 29 August 2023

1 Attendance

Voting Attendees	8 Voting reps		
Alan Gray	Axbridge CG	AG	
Andrea Roberts	WCMS	AN	
Barry Wilkinson	White Rabbit CG	BW	
Dave Cooke	Cheddar CC	DC	Web Officer
Judi Durber	EECC	JD	
Linda Wilson	UBSS	LJW	BCA Rep
Mark Tringham	GSS	MT	
Tom Harrison	MCG	TH	Treasurer

Non Voting Attendees (Observers)

Graham Mullan	CCC Ltd rep	GJM
Aubrey Newport		AN

2 Apologies for Absence

Frank Tully	Secretary	FT
Wayne Starsmore	C&A Officer	WS
Alan Dempster	Avon Scouts	AD
Peter Burgess	Comms Officer	PB
Laura Benn	BEC	LB
Geoff Dommett	BCG	GD

Recording of the meeting

The meeting is being recorded for the purpose of minute taking

Appointment of Chair for the Meeting

In the absence of an elected chair, David Cooke was proposed as chair for this meeting by UBSS and seconded by EECC. Accepted unanimously.

3 Approval of minutes from AGM 12 May 2023

Minutes approved with the following corrections,

10 Photo course was last year not last month (April 2022).

11 LW Pete Glanvill and others are working on behalf of BCA to hand out the Green BCA cards. Hand out should be phase out.

13 Thrupe Lane Swallet not Throup Lane Swallet

Proposed UBSS Seconded ACG, Vote passed Unanimous

4 Chair's report

None, as currently no elected Chair.

5 Secretary's report

None received

5.1 New Members

None

6 C&A Report

Report included in the latest CSCC newsletter.

MT asked if any progress had been made with Longleat over access to the caves in Cheddar Gorge. LJW replied that no response has been received from Longleat's representatives to a request for a follow up meeting to discuss CSCC's response to Longleat's request for a formal access agreement in the personal names of CSCC officers. The response was that CSCC's stance on this has not changed since this request was initially refused several years ago. We therefore wish to explore with them the other option touched on in our last meeting, namely some form of leader/warden system as previously used eg for Reservoir Hole.

JD asked whether any progress had been made on the policy needed on how many CSCC keys can be issued and to whom. The answer was: not yet. This was deferred.

This question led to a longer discussion on the difficult visitors to this area face in learning how to obtain keys for various caves. A quick tour of some websites revealed a wide range of information available, some specific and some very general, meaning that in some cases, a club has to be contacted to obtain details of the actual key issuer. A good starting point in all cases is the CSCC access guide, but it's clear that in some cases additional information is needed for this to be workable. The guide can link to specific club websites to prevent information having to be kept updated in two specific places. JD says she has been through

many of the club websites and most don't provide enough information. It was agreed that access information could provide a good source of articles for the CSCC newsletter. AR will discuss this with PB. This is also something that can be constructively discussed with member clubs to see if more can be done to help visiting cavers.

7 Treasurer

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

7.1 Accounts

The sum of £100 has been received for the surplus gate for Stoke Lane that was sold to partially recoup money paid for this that could not be reclaimed from BCA.

It was noted that the accounts were not formally approved at the AGM. To rectify this omission, WRTCC proposed their acceptance. This was seconded by GSS and approved unanimously.

7.2 General

TH reported that we have about 7k in the bank.

7.3 Photography Workshop

A clarification was made regarding the figures for this in that there was income of £30, expenditure of £150, BCA grant of £100 and a deficit of £20.

8 Equipment Officer

A report was in the latest CSCC newsletter, <https://csc.org.uk/wiki/documents/start>

AA is still injured and unable to do much caving.

AA stated that the bolt in Swildon's sump 2 is not a high priority as it has been inspected and is not felt to represent an urgent problem.

The bolts in Eastwater are something that AA and Si Flower have been working on for some considerable time. This needs good weather to progress. AA stated that the bolts are fine providing the user is familiar with spits. At the last meeting, Andrew Thompson volunteered to help with this work.

AA stated that he has trained numerous people in bolting in the past but that they have invariably placed one lot of specific bolts but no more. However, the training is easy and mainly consists of knowing how to properly clean the holes.

DC volunteered to do a training session with AA so that he can place the bolts needed down Read's Cavern so that he can be an additional trained/approved person for bolting.

9 Communications Officer

A report has been published in the latest newsletter.

PB has now published his first newsletter and it was agreed that this has been a success.

More information/articles is/are sought to make the newsletter more interesting, rather than just including officers' reports.

MT volunteered to do a write up of the GSS activities in the Forest of Dean.

JD will ask the Westminster CC for a note on their activities as they have recently joined CSCC. She will also write something about EECC.

Katie Eavis can be asked for a list of what clubs have ticked CSCC as their region. If this is done in the month preceding the next newsletter it could allow for a rolling programme of introductions to new clubs. Features on existing clubs are will also be welcomes, as above.

10 Training Officer

Out of the 5 people who signed up for the last training session, 2 attended. The session was a success, however it was felt that if a charge was levied for the training, fewer people would drop out.

DK has been asked to look into the provision of more SRT training and is getting quotes from CICs and discussing these at BCA level to hopefully ensure a consistency of approach between the regions.

11 BCA Representative

A report was included in the newsletter, <https://csc.org.uk/wiki/documents/start>

LJW stressed that BCA very much needs a volunteer to come forward to stand as Treasurer.

The proposal made by LJW that Council phases out the green plastic cards, as suggested by Peter Glanvill, was accepted. Going forward, membership will be evidence via a PDF on a phone or by the member printing their own paper copy.

Progress has not yet been made on formulating a proposal from CSCC to take to BCA council on the use of BCA funds in connection with charities eg the recent support given to the Bendrig Foundation.

12 IT Officer's Report

There is now a proper page on the website for past issues of the newsletter and DC will put links to past issues there.

13 Forthcoming events

Hidden Earth: 15 – 17th September 2023 in Portishead, Bristol

BCRA Science Symposium & AGM: 21st – 22nd October 2023 at School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds, with a fieldtrip to Gillfield Level (Greenhow) and caves of Nidderdale

Kendal Mountain Festival: 16th to 19th November 2023, Kendal, Cumbria

14 AOB

14.1 Unclaimed expenses

DC raised a concern about unclaimed expenses. Currently the only possible unclaimed expenses are from Graham Price in his former role of C&A Officer. He has been asked several times both verbally and by email to present these. It was agreed that TH will send a follow-up email to Graham asking for his expenses (if any) to be presented with supporting evidence before the next meeting, otherwise it will be deemed that no further expenses are owed. If no reply, he will follow this up with a recorded delivery letter.

As a follow on from this, the officers suggested that CSCC should adopt a future policy stating that all expenses owed to officers and others must be claimed with a year of the expense being incurred and only in exceptional circumstances will CSCC pay any expenses claimed later than this. This proposal met with general acceptance and it was agreed that the officers should circulate the exact wording of such a proposal to member clubs with a view to adopting this at the next meeting.

14.2 Date of next meetings

DC noted that all proposed meetings fall on Wednesdays and in view of this he suggested that we vary the day. It was agreed that as there is no one ideal day for everyone, varying the day will be helpful.

JD asked for the proposed date for the next meeting be changed to Monday 13th November at 7pm by zoom. There was no objection to this.

It was unanimously agreed that the meeting after that will be changed to Tuesday 13th February 2024 at 7pm by zoom.

The next two meetings will therefore be held on:

Monday 13th November at 7pm by zoom.

Tuesday 13th February 2024 at 7pm by zoom.

Meeting duration 1h20