



Minutes of the 497th Meeting of **THE WESSEX CAVE CLUB**

Held at Upper Pitts on Sunday 2nd September 2001 at 10:20 hrs.

Future Meetings at 10 am on:

20th October 2001 (follows AGM)
(An ECM may be required
in late September to deal
with the AGM handbook)

- 1) **Attendance:**
 - a) Present: DC, GB, LW, MHel, LO, PH, PG, JW
 - b) Apologies: IT, BP, SR, MHew
- 2) **Chairman's Opening Remarks:**

"...maybe I'll think of something by the end of the meeting".
- 3) **Minutes of the Last Meeting**
 - a) The amended minutes were approved by the Committee.
- 4) **Matters arising from the Minutes**
 - a) Don Thomson needs to be approached for his preferred title on Club letterheads. The formal letter is to be sent. – on going (DC).
 - b) A shortlist for the two required Trustees was discussed, and DC will approach the preferred members. – on going
 - c) DC/GB will sign the letter (to be drafted by LW) appointing LW to be the Club's representative to BCRA. – on going
 - d) New garage/store. - on going
- 5) **Treasurer's Report**
 - a) The Money Master account was unchanged bar having incurred a little interest. Whereas the current account stood at £3,654 although this figure did not take into consideration of the recently paid insurance of £1,200. Full accounts will be prepared in conjunction with Peter for the AGM handbook.
 - b) MHel advised caution on spending although approved the necessary cost a new flue for the stove.
- 6) **Upper Pitts Progress**
 - a) Power washer: work has progressed – on going
 - b) Dorm members' end window: cementing is still required. – on going
 - c) Hallway display cabinet window repair: ongoing.
 - d) Common Room radiator TRVs: replacement ongoing
 - e) Instantaneous gas boiler for Mira showers: ongoing, subject to finance.
 - f) LW will checked the wiring for the Ladies Bunkroom shower, and advise that the cable requires up grading. Boiler House: to be insulated and boarded. – on going
 - g) Loft space wiring: awaiting tidying (LW) – on going
 - h) Spin Dryer seems to trip out hut lights. Further investigation required (LW)
 - i) Shower fans: Grilles are still required. (MHel) – on going
 - j) MHel to provide suitable fittings for SRT Training Tower. – on going
 - k) Car Park scrap: Still to be removed. – on going
 - l) Bunkroom door still broken. Bean to be asked to make a stainless steel cover. – on going
 - m) Condensation in Ladies Bunkroom may be caused by rain getting in under the eaves and requires mastic. Interior walls to be painted with Kitchen/Bathroom emulsion. – on going
 - n) Condensation at each end of main Bunkroom. Probably a similar cause. To be investigated.
 - o) Fire escape. Painting is still required. – on going
 - p) A new flexible flue (or similar) is needed for the pot-bellied stove. IT to be consulted. – on going
 - q) Locker room lights not working. New starters are to be tested.

- 7) **Hut Warden's Report and Hut Bookings**
- a) PG voiced that the culprits of the recent torching of the lounge furniture should remove the old skeletons from the lawn and find suitable replacements.
 - b) It was felt that the club should replace the used fire extinguisher to maintain a suitable level of safety, yet reclaim the costs from the individual that set it off – all in agreement.
- 8) **Tackle Officer's Report**
- a) The NCA SRT rope testing service is too slow. A Club rope-testing rig was currently thought to be a luxury, but use of the BEC's is to be sought as all agreed the importance of WCC rope testing. – JW to ask Gregg.
- 9) **Journal & Website**
- a) The AGM Handbook will probably include a News Sheet, to notify members of events between the AGM and February 2002. – on going
 - b) The Club should reimburse JW the £99 paid to secure the Club's domain name. – on going
- 10) **Sales Officer's Report**
- a) A new stock of coffee mugs is required. – on going
 - b) A request to 'Help the Club and buy a Shirt' will be re-published in the Journal in a way that will draw attention to it. JW agreed to 'model' merchandise for pictorial display.
- 11) **Caving Secretary's Report & Caving Politics.**
- a) Swildon's conservation plan. Ongoing, but the photo album for the Main family should be prepared first. Pete Glanville, Don Thomson and Dave Irwin will be approached for suitable photographs. (Other photos welcome). – on going
 - b) Conditions of access for Ogof Draenen. Will be posted on notice board when received. – on going as most of South Wales is still close due to F&M.
 - c) LW attended the recent NCA AGM. Boyd Potts of the Pwll Du management committee wants a Wessex representative to attend meetings, otherwise we may be excluded. Dom Sealy is willing to attend. - Dom Sealy is now representative for Ogof Draenen.
 - d) Separate applications have been made for the joint WCC/DSS expedition of Gouffre Berger in 2002. A meeting to discuss the trip will take place on November 17th 2001.
 - e) BCRA liability insurance will be in place for this coming year however may be subject to change thereafter.
 - f) NCA/BCA intend to commission an on line 'chat room'.
 - g) It was agreed that the club was fundamentally opposed to a commercial caver taking the role of NCA training convenor. These views have been noted with the CSCC and expressed to NCA.
 - h) A. Sparrow is hosting a 'train the trainer' weekend for club training officers on 12th & 13th January 2002.
 - i) Localised club projects should be registered with 'AONB' '*Strategy for Historic Environment*', via the Charterhouse Centre.
 - j) GB volunteered to generate a 'New Members' guidebook once the AGM Handbook was out of the way. LW felt that there may also be a benefit in providing an induction for new members.
- 12) **Annual General Meeting & Dinner, Social.**
- a) Donations will be requested for an auction at the Dinner. GB to generate flyers to be inserted with AGM handbook
 - b) Nigel Taylor of BEC is to be consulted re. the nature of issuing guest dinner ticket and the quantity. – on going.
 - c) It was agreed that annual dinner invitations should be extended to DSS and the MCG and that GB and JW to attend the BEC dinner on 6th October.
 - d) Lost property is to be displayed for retrieval or sale at the AGM Dinner. – JW to publish on website
 - e) Ideally all officer's reports should be sent to GB by 8th September and not 20th as previously anticipated. GB to prepare the AGM Handbook.

13) **New Members and Membership Secretary's Report**

- a) 2001/2 subscriptions are beginning to come in.
- b) The following new member was elected to the Wessex Cave Club:

Thomas Miles
Rose Cottage
Lower Durston
Taunton
TA3 5AH
01823 412713
07929 640293
t.miles@plymouth.ac.uk

Proposed: Phil Hendy
Seconded: F. Felstead

Sarah Clarke
97 Church Street
Hilperton
Trowbridge
BA4 7RL
01225 776139
sarahclarke@wiltshire.gov.uk

Proposed: K. Marshall
Seconded: John Heath

Michael Hamworth
79 Boroham Road
Warminster
Wiltshire
BA12 9JX
01985 211458
Michael@logicdevices.com

Proposed: K. Marshall
Seconded: R. Marshall

Petra Dobbs
14 Chequers Road
Gloucester
GL4 6PN
01452 384236

Proposed: R. Marshall
Seconded: John Heath

Neville Acland
7 St Christopher Road
Colchester
Essex
CO4 4LA
01206 843544
neville@acland-family.co.uk

Proposed: Geoff Ballard
Seconded: Maurice Hewins

Christopher Perkins
27 Long Plough Aston
Clinton
HP22 5HB

01296 630922

perks50@hotmail.com

John Heath
Rob Marshall

Julia Hamworth
79 Boroham Road
Warminster
Wiltshire
BA12 9JX
01985 211458
julia.hamworth@genie.co.uk

R. Marshall
John Heath

Steve Robotham
14 Waddesdon Green
Stoke Mandeville
Aylesbury
HP21 9ES
01296 431772

John Heath
K. Marshall

Christine Grosart
Cornborough Manor Farm
Sherriff Hutton
York
YO60 6QN
07967 452544

Simon Richards
Phil Hendy

Gillian Acland
50 Keelers Way
Great Horkelesley
Nr Colchester
CO6 4EF
01206 273415
letitia@acland-family.co.uk

Geoff Ballard
Maurice Hewins

- 14) **Any Other Business**
- a) DC advised that John Heath was able to deliver a caving focused first aid course at £5 per head. LW to speak with John to organise.
 - b) GB advised that he had sent a letter on behalf of the club to Edith Sheppard.
 - c) Numerous training meets will be arranged pre-Berger. (LW)
 - d) PH put forward a motion to alter the club rules. The committee agreed that LW should liase with PH to further develop the idea and to complete for proposal and insertion into AGM Handbook.
 - e) The committee was in agreement that the membership fee should increase no more than in line with inflation.

The meeting closed at 13:10

The next meeting is scheduled to follow the AGM on Saturday 20th October 2001