

**Minutes of the 512th Meeting of THE WESSEX CAVE CLUB**

Held at Upper Pitts on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept. at 10:00 hrs.

Future Meetings to be held at 10:00 am:

18<sup>th</sup> October 03

1) **Attendance:**

a) Present: P. Grosart, P. Hendy, R. Fielder, L. Williams.  
J. Thomas, S. Richards, M. Helmore, Paul Wakeling, I. Timney.  
Brian Prewer joined the meeting as treasurer's helper.

Apologies: L. Orr, M. Hewins, D. Cookie

2) **Chairman's Opening Remarks:**

From Cookie; *The current issue of the journal was of excellent content and quality photos.*  
P.Hendy as acting chairman today; *This committee needs to be in preparation for the AGM meeting.*

3) **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

a) The Committee approved the amended minutes.

4) **Matters arising from the Minutes**

1. Questionnaire will be discussed at the next meeting.

5) **Treasurer's Report.**

- a) Paid the bill of £681.00 for installation. A donation of £500.00 has been given towards the boiler -and £100 of this donation towards the ladies showers.
- b) The council will be reviewing the rates (from the information that Mark has sent in) and we shall find out more at the end of the month.
- c) 'Hut sinking fund'. When the accounts are given to Pete Haigh, he can then audit them. We need monies allocated to the hut sinking fund for the current AGM and also for last year's AGM.

6. **Upper Pitts**

- a) Committee want an annual inspection/check by registered LPG/Corgi gasman for a landlord's certificate. **B. Prewer** will organise this.
  - b) The boiler house needs to be insulated and boarded-ongoing.
  - c) Investigate cavity wall insulation-IT to obtain quotes from local companies. Ongoing.
  - d) **DC** to keep on top of Biff regarding outline plans. Ongoing.
  - e) Seams in corners of kitchen need to be sealed as the rest completed. **PW** will investigate this further.
  - f) **IT** confirmed the cost of fascia boards along the back of the hut would be £60.00 approx and £100 including guttering. Guttering, cleaning required. Ongoing.
  - g) Lead flashing **IT** and **LW** to investigate. Ongoing.
  - h) **Tommo** to sort out kitchen drawer problem. Ongoing.
  - i) Updating the gent's toilets should be a priority.
  - j) The library needs a double skin on ceiling also needed in the corridor. Ongoing.
  - k) Security bars in windows need checking and painting.
  - l) **LW** has a stainless steel commercial microwave oven, will bring up to hut to look at. Ongoing.
  - m) Changed capacitor in pressure washer, but it now needs a new pump. **PW** to investigate getting a pump or buying a new machine.
  - n) Ventilation in tackle store needs to be investigated. Ongoing.
  - o) **PH** need a bar to go across coin boxes. Number four shower not working, **BP** to investigate.
  - p) It was decided to take ladies shower off the current electrics and run it off the new boiler. To put an instantaneous hot water boiler into the kitchen, under sink. **Mark** allocated £250.00 approx. to go and purchase one and fit ourselves.
  - q) **LW** and **Brian** will look at wiring in attic, for the showers.
  - r) **PH** informs us that Barry Wilkinson has offered to rationalise fuse boxes and put in a new consumer unit. Committee agreed this would be a good idea. Ongoing.
  - s) Need to investigate an improvement to loft access above lounge. **PH** will investigate.
  - t) With heavy rain, porch filled with water. Suggest a door closure with pulley system. The end of porch guttering leaking and needs 'end stop.'
  - u) Thank you to Dave Meredith for painting drying room and a thank you to Phil Hendy for the bar-b-que table.
  - v) Need to build a cover around pressure washer.
7. **Hut Warden' Report and Hut Bookings.**

- a) **Jonathon and Paul** will look at old computers in storerooms and see if they are worth keeping for spare parts. Ongoing.
- b) There is a hut booking on 26<sup>th</sup> Sept for a group of 15 people who are having a caving reunion. Also a novice weekend booked for 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov for 20 people.
- 8. Tackle Officer's Report.**
- a) Need to spend £50 voucher on equipment soon. **MH and BP** to buy lifeline with this voucher.
- b) **PW** to take ropes to Hidden Earth for rope testing.
- c) One of the survey kits has now been missing a long time, and it could only be a member as no one else is allowed to borrow it.
- 9. Journal, Library and Website.**
1. **MHew** to investigate the costs involved in publishing 'an occasional paper' on caves such as Twin T's and Swindon's Hole. First draft of Twin T's has been seen by Don Thompson and waiting for Jim Hanwell to edit. **Ongoing.**
  2. Vern Freeman has updated the handbook and it needs proof reading. It will be sent out to new members and members requesting a copy only, as it will probably need updating after the AGM. **Ongoing.**
  3. Swildon's book. Will ask at the **AGM** if anyone wishes to assist in this publication and if no one wants to take this on, then it will be decided to let the Natural History Society print this book.- As members do not have the time to commit to this project.
  4. Need an improved survey of Swildons-possible to get sponsorship? Dave Morrison is working on the survey but needs survey data, such as Priddy Green Sink/radio locating at Black Hole/N. E. Inlets etc. **Ongoing.**
  5. Mark has access to photocopier that will print quality Swildon's surveys and 50 to be printed for selling.
- 10. Sales officer's Report.**
- a) A new stock of coffee mugs is required. **LW** suggests contacting Ivor. **Ongoing.**
- b) To investigate the cost of fleece jackets. Malc Foyle and Ros suggest Warmbac. **Ongoing.**
- 11. Caving secretary's report and Caving Politics.**
- a) Swildon's conservation plan. **Ongoing.** -but the photo album for the Maine family should be prepared first. Pete Glanville, Don Thompson, and Dave Irwin will be asked for suitable photographs and anyone else who can help. **Ongoing.**
  - b) **LW** will get list of club members who are leaders and the caves that require them. Then publish in journal/web site/notice board in club. **Ongoing.**
  - c) Need a child protection policy. **Ongoing.**
  - d) **DC** to write article in journal regarding carbon dioxide levels in caves. **Ongoing.**
  - e) A Mendip meet to be organised for November and to coincide with Priddy Bonfire weekend. -1<sup>st</sup> Nov. Possibility of booking Waterwheel cave.
  - f) **DC** and **LW** reported that the new national caving body BCA, would be meeting in two weeks time to vote on voting structure. (Allow one member one vote and with club proxy was the majority agreement of the committee.) **Ongoing.** There is a special HUB meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November, with **LW** and **DC** attending. (**LW** is the Wessex representative.)
  - g) **DC** will contact Les Davies for current plan of proposals regarding the AONB plans including the plan to centralise the rescue store at Charterhouse Centre. **Ongoing.**
  - h) Proposed D. Cookie as NCA trustee by Ros Fielder.
  - i) The Cliford Quarries Caves are adopted as an official club dig -Rich Witcombe.
- 12. Annual General Meeting and Dinner, Social.**
1. 18<sup>th</sup> October 03. Booked at the Crossways Hotel, North Wootten, Wells. John Franklan as possible speaker, but **Les** will ring and cancel John. Speaker is Sid Perou.
  2. Due to the cost of the dinner, the only guests will be Easterwater family, the Dors, the speaker and wife. **Ros** will write to Craven/Axbridge/BEC/Shepton and MCG informing them of this change. We have received a letter from BEC stating that they will not be supplying free dinner tickets this year. The dinner ticket price is inclusive of the barrel at the Wessex.
  3. **LW** and **DC** will look at proposal regarding changes in insurance for the AGM. This outline was drafted at the meeting;  
'If you are on any official club trip, using club equipment or using the club name in any way, you must have adequate insurance. The club requires that all members should have adequate insurance except social or senior members.'  
'Adequate insurance ' as set by Nick Williams.

The club will offer insurance to its members and will process it rather than through a national body. The committee asked Ros to contact Nick Williams and get up-to-date information on the insurance.

4. When setting the subscription at this year's AGM, the insurance premium which is about a £5.00 to be deducted as it will now be a separate payment.

5. There will be a raffle at the dinner and auction.

6. Ros to book Hunter's Lodge back room for AGM meeting at 10.00am 18<sup>th</sup> Oct.

7. PROPOSALS FOR AGM:

- i) **'Reword 3.3.b to be 'Full Joint: a couple paying 150% of the single subscription, each having a vote, but receiving only one copy of the Journal between them'. Remove 3.3.c. Renumber 3.3.d,e,f accordingly.**  
Prop. The committee
- ii) **'Replace 8.3 with 'No member can use the Club name without the permission of the Committee.'**  
Prop. The committee.
- iii) **To remove all references to affiliates** (-this wording to be rephrased by Les and then he will email Ros.) Prop; The committee
- iv) **Subscription rate for the coming year is.....(awaiting confirmation from Treasurer.)** Suggestion of 'We recommend that subscription is set at the current rate, less insurance and with inflation'.  
Prop: Pete Haigh or Treasurer  
Sec: The committee.
- v) **The amount of monies to put in the hut sinking fund for the current financial year and for the previous financial year.-This proposal is needed from Pete Haigh.**  
Prop; Pete Haigh  
Sec; The committee
- vi) To propose that; **' Dave Irwin to become Vice President of the club for services to speleology.**  
Prop; Committee.
- vii) To propose all positions 'en bloc ' such as president etc.  
Prop; The committee.

13. **New members and membership secretary's report.**

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Prop; D. Sanderson.

Sec: T.C. Waller.

14. **Any Other Business.**

1. Request more keys to be cut for hut. Aubrey will do this and pass on to Ni-Nak.
2. **Ros** to organise printing of AGM handbook, LW will give her previous printer details and phone number.
3. **Ros needs all reports in, including tackle list by 20<sup>th</sup> Sept for AGM.** All AGM information must be posted to members by Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 03.

Meeting closed at 12.50pm.