

# PWLL DU CAVE MANAGEMENT GROUP

**Minutes of the General Meeting held at the Old School Community Centre, Gilwern on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2012 commencing at 7.30pm.**

## **Attendees:**

Mick Day		Chairman
Fleur Loveridge	Oxford UCC/Red Rose CPC	Secretary
Sue Mabbett	South Wales C.C.	Permit Secretary & Club Rep
Ali Garman	Draenen Diggers	Club Rep & Fixed Aids Officer
Chris Gibbs	Cwmbran Caving Club	Club Rep
Chris Densham	Oxford U. C. C.	Club Rep
Peter Talling	University Bristol S.S.	Club Rep
Dan Thorne	Gagendor	Club Rep
Chris Seal	Chelsea S.S.	Club Rep
John Stevens	Chelsea S.S.	Survey Recorder
Bernie Woodley	Cambrian Caving Council	
Stuart France	Chelsea S.S.	

## **1. Apologies**

Apologies received from Charles Bailey (Trustee), Stuart Reid (CCW), Tim Barter (WSG), Ben Lovett (MCC), Henry Patton (ACC), Spencer Drew (Treasurer), Elsie Little (CCC).

## **2a. Minutes of the last Meetings (16<sup>th</sup> June 2012)**

The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record by the Chair. (Proposed AG, seconded CD).

In future the minutes will be marked as draft until approved.

Due to problem with .docx file extensions for some members of the Group, documents will be circulated in pdf or .doc formats in future.

It was reported that the minutes from the June 2012 meeting were not available on the website, however, it is confirmed that they are currently publicly available on the site.

## **2b. Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the Agenda**

There were no matters arising which would not be covered later in the agenda.

## **3. Officers Reports**

### **a) Secretary**

The Secretary's reported that there had been little progress since the last meeting with respect to moving forward the bat licence application for Drws Cefn. This will be chased as a matter of urgency to make sure the revised programme for the works to commence in spring can be met.

There have been no further reported problems with the gate.

b) Treasurer

The treasurer sent his apologies but provided a report as reproduced below:

*The last income & expenditure accounts I produced that ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012 showed that our total bank balanced was £421.93. Since then we have had income from donations & key donations of £80 and expenditure of £28 for the hire of the hall and £62.40 for the cost of key cutting. The Groups current total balance is £411.43.*

*Just a snippet of information in this report since I have nothing else to account to date. I apologise for absence this evening but I had a little surgery this week and I can say, it was rather swell!*

The Group would like to congratulate the Treasurer on the recent birth of his daughter.

c) Permit Secretary/Access Officer

The Permit Secretary reports that caver numbers remain low-ish, but higher than last year. Blips occur on bank holidays (eg Easter and the Jubilee weekend), but there was only one trip recorded in the whole of August. Most trips are from Member Clubs. The Permit Secretary still has an excess of jiffy bags but the message is slowly filtering through that people should no longer send these. It was commented that the (now not so) new log book sheets continue to make deciphering the log book entries much easier.

There was some discussion about the occurrence of many trips representing multiple clubs. There has been precedent for this since the discovery of the cave. Although other caves in South Wales require trips to be attributable to only one club (which is the key-holder in that instance) it was agreed that it was more appropriate for Ogof Draenen that all relevant clubs were recorded. It is better to encourage openness than to arrive at a situation where cavers feel they should disguise which club they really belong to. It was also clarified that in the summary recording of trips produced by the Permit Secretary that the first named (readable) caver is transcribed, but this is not the trip leader per se.

Summary of trips in last 12 months:

**Trips Recorded in Ogof Draenen Nov 2011 to Oct 2012**

	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12
Parties	13	6	6	10	6	7
Persons	42	22	14	36	22	25

	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-11	Dec-11
Parties	5	1	2	7	8	6
Persons	20	2	12	29	30	18

d) Conservation Officer

It was reported that the current Conservation Officer has recently moved to Australia. In his absence the Secretary had contacted Henry Patton of ACC who had agreed to look after conservation issues for the Group until the end of the current constitutional period in June.

*Post meeting note: The conservation officer has now formally tendered his resignation as he will not be able to fulfil his duties from his current position.*

The Group would like to thank the Conservation Officer for all his hard work over many years.

On 17 November 2012 FL and CD had inspected and spot fixed the conservation tape on the remainder of the main trade routes (Perseverance to St David's Hall and the route south as far as Snowball). As a consequence there is now only 75m of the 2km of tape remaining from the stock FL purchased previously. It was agreed that a further 1km would be purchased, subsequent to research about funding (it was noted that in some cases the expense cannot predate the application). Proposed SM, seconded DT.

e) Survey Secretary

There was no report from the Survey Secretary.

f) Survey Recorder

The Survey Recorder has reorganised some of the data.

It was agreed to investigate placing the Grade 2 pool data within the revamped BCA cave survey repository. However, the Grade 5 data is still under development and therefore this is not ready to go onto this site at the moment. It was however, confirmed that the Grade 5 data is backed up independently.

g) Biological Recorder

There was no report from the Biological Recorder; however it is known that Lee Knight's fauna survey is continuing.

h) Geological Recorder.

There was no report from the Geological Recorder.

h) Fixed Aids Officer

There is an annual inspection of the fixed aids and this will be due before the next meeting in June.

CD confirmed that he had contacted Steve King about putting fixed aids information within his cave description. However, he is currently overseas.

**4. Election of Officers/Recorders**

NA

**5. Other Group Business**

NA

**6. Applications for membership**

None received.

#### **7. Applications to become keyholders**

The Permit Secretary had been contacted by Shepton Mallet CC to request a key (note they used to be a key holder in the past). However, records indicate that SMCC have not had a trip to the cave for many years. As they were planning trips over the coming Christmas and Easter breaks it was suggested that these trips would stand them in good stead for a future key application later next year.

#### **8. AOB**

None

**Meeting closed at 8.40pm**

Next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

DRAFT