

PWLL DU CAVE MANAGEMENT GROUP.

General Meeting 20th November 2010

Secretary's Report

Gates

On the evening of Wednesday 7th July the gates to both the Ogof Draenen main entrance and Drws Cefn were removed without authorisation. This first came to my attention when I went to do a trip to Dollimore's on the 8th July. I immediately reported this to the landowners, who whilst not impressed at this further disruption were fortunately relatively understanding of the situation.

We subsequently learned that there was a very narrow window for the removal of the gate on the main entrance as a party from SWCC had entered the cave that evening with the gate in place and later exited with the gate absent.

This incident was reported to the police by the landowners and was treated as a follow up to previous reported incidents on PwllDu Conservation owned land. I was required to formally report the loss to the police and contacted all the keyholders regarding the location of their keys which were judged to have been required in order to facilitate removal of the gate.

No further information about the removal of the gates has since come to light either from within the caving community or from the police enquiry.

A replacement gate was ordered in July. This is currently under manufacture and at time of writing completion of a replacement gate is expected to be complete within the next few days. I will provide an update as soon as this is complete and there is a planned date for installations.

Drws Cefn

Since the last meeting further liaison with the Countryside Council for Wales established that the Group would not be able to compile the documentation for the Licence to allow works at Drws Cefn without the input of a specialist bat expert. Discussions with the CCW and the Bat Conservation Trust indicated that the Licence documents would be best prepared by a Licensed bat worker. A bat worker was recommended via the local bat group and he visited the site during the summer and agreed to prepare the Licence for us. However, it has recently emerged that this individual will no longer be able to assist us with this task and a new Licensed bat worker is required to enable us to complete the Licence application.

In the interim the entrance has been covered over (leaving bat access) and made safe to prevent access by passing non cavers. However, it has also been clear that some cavers have used Drws Cefn during this period despite the express wishes of the landowners. While I believe the numbers are small this is not helpful and all clubs are kindly asked to remind their members that access/egress here is contrary to our License agreement with the landowners and puts access for all at risk.

Caver Counters

As per the actions from the last meeting I wrote to Stuart France regarding his "caver counters" on the 15th July. The letter asked for an application for use of the counters to be considered by this Group. So far no response has been forthcoming.

Constitution

Following the last meeting, proposed constitutional changes are attached. These cannot be formally agreed until next June's meeting. However, any comments made now will facilitate a shorter meeting next year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The last income & expenditure accounts that I produced that ended 31st May 2010 showed that our total bank balance was £241.81.

Since then we have only had expenditure of £129.88 relating to the replacement of fixed aids in Ogof Draenen and £40 income relating to the last couple of club donations regarding the key & lock replacements.

This leaves the Group with a total balance of approx £150.00. This balance I feel should be at minimum £350.00 since we may need a float to finance a project, like a new gate, which will be repaid by a grant etc.

I know that the clubs have made a donation to cover the costs of the new keys and lock but due to the recent events I am suggesting that we ask the clubs once again for help to increase our 'float', so to speak, with another donation.

I apologise for my absence today but this is unavoidable due to personal circumstances.

Spencer Drew
Treasurer

From the Permit Secretary

Trips Recorded in Oqof Draenen Jan 10 to 31 Dec10

| | Jan-10 | Feb-10 | Mar-10 | Apr-10 | May-10 | Jun-10 |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Parties | 5 | 10 | 15 | 4 | 14 | 6 |
| Persons | 16 | 23 | 50 | 9 | 36 | 22 |

| | Jul-10 | Aug-10 | Sep-10 | Oct-10 | Nov-10 | Dec-10 |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Parties | 12 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 0 |
| Persons | 41 | 13 | 26 | 38 | 14 | 0 |

Data correct to 6th November inclusive