

PWLL DU CAVE MANAGEMENT GROUP

Minutes of the AGM held at the Blaenavon Workingmen's Hall on Saturday 4th July 2009 commencing at 7:30pm

Attendees:

Mick Day		Chairman
Ali Garman	Draenen Diggers	Secretary
Spencer Drew	Morgannwg C.C.	Treasurer
Chris Densham	Oxford University C.C.	
Chris Seal	Chelsea S.S.	
Peter Talling	University of Bristol S..S	
Bernie Woodley	South Wales C.C.	
Fleur Loveridge	Oxford University C.C.	
Ben Lovett	Morgannwg C.C.	Conservation Officer
Steve Roberts	Oxford University C.C. / S.W.C.C.	
John Pybus	Oxford Uni C.C.	Survey Secretary
Imogen Furlong	Sheffield University S.S.	
Elsie Little	Cambrian Caving Council	
Richard Bayfield	Bristol Exploration Club	
Owen Clarke	Cwmbran C.C.	
Chris Gibbs	Cwmbran C.C.	
John Stevens	Chelsea S.S. / G5 Surveyors	
Nig Rogers	G.O. Garimpeiros	
Mary Rogers	G.O. Garimpeiros	
Chris Bradley	G.O. Garimpeiros	
Paul Shea	G.O. Garimpeiros	
Martin Laverty	G.O. Garimpeiros	
Charles Bailey	Trustee	

1. **Apologies** – Andy Farrant, Tony Donovan, Clive Gardner, Stuart France, Sue Mabbett, Les Williams, Tim Guilford, Paul Nuttal
 - a. **Rhian Hicks** had not been notified of the meeting as her email address has changed and the emails being sent have not been bouncing. **FL to correct RH's email address** (rhian@carreg.org.uk).
2. **Minutes of previous meeting** – Accepted with corrections. “No proposal received since 2005 from or to the Grade 5 surveyors regarding how they would like to proceed with the G5 survey.”
 - a. AG apologised for the very late production of these minutes and for the fact that this will have a knock on effect on the actions they contain.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes**
 - a. (4.b.ii) – Claims from Cambrian CC will not be a problem, once submitted by the relevant PDCMG officers
 - b. (4.b.vi) – [**Not discussed at this meeting**] – Following the last meeting AG was actioned to install the new ‘Daren’ style ladder the

Balcony pitch. The ladder was taken in sectioned to Balcony pitch and the existing ladder inspected. The existing ladder appeared in good condition with the exception of a single missing rung near the top. When this rung originally failed shortly after installation it was assumed that the entire ladder was flawed, time has proved otherwise. Although the new ladder is superior to the current one, it seems wasteful and a lot of work to install the new ladder. AG proposed that the new ladder be installed on the entrance climb just up from Cairn Junction as this often causes difficult for tied cavers existing the cave and the Balcony Pitch ladder repaired. **Please discuss at next meeting.**

- c. (4.d.ii) – Bernie spoke to Tony Donovan, who stated that he was looking to head to head south into new cave.
- d. (4.f.ii) – No biological report received.
- e. (6) The meeting was not held last November, AG apologised for not arranging this.

4. Officers Reports

- a. **Secretary** – written report submitted and accepted
 - i. AG again apologised for failing to organise this meeting last November.
 - ii. June '08 – Letter received from Peter Jones raising 4 concerns which are covered later in the agenda under 'Landowner Relations'. His concerns were publicised in a press release which appeared in Descent (203)
 - iii. Sept '08 – Peter Jones had a very worrying confrontation with two cavers try to break open the capped 2nd Entrance.
 - iv. Jan '09 – Robin Weare reported that the padlock was missing from the cave. AG purchased and replaced the padlock ASAP
- b. **Treasurer** – written report submitted and accepted
 - i. Total funds £273.30
 - ii. Public Liability insurance is set as an annual fee of £50. This cost will be covered by the BCA directly in the future, so the account should now stay very stable.
 - iii. Some expenditure was covered by treasure and secretary out of their own pockets and this did not appear on the accounts. This practice has been carried out to save the Officers' time. It may continue in future but will be recorded on the accounts to reflect the true costs of the Group.
- c. **Permit Secretary** – written report submitted and accepted
 - i. Caver numbers remain steady
 - ii. An extensive set of facts and figures was provided by SM, covering the period Nov '05 to June '09.
 - iii. Gagendor / Devon S.S. / Cardiff University C.C. to be invited to join the group by next meeting. **Action FL**

d. **Conservation Officer**

- i. Major conservation issues covered later in the agenda
 - ii. Sporadic taping is still being done, notably in Tractor Tracks
 - iii. JS asked if anyone had considered cutting off access to bat roosting areas? BL reported that adhoc bat counting was being performed. JS showed a survey with bat roosting sites marked on it. **BL to consider suitable passages that could be closed to protect bat roosting sites. JS has some marked up surveys as input into this process.**
- e. **Survey Secretary**
 - i. No data received since last meeting
 - ii. **FL to publicise survey policy** and ask that new finds are reported to survey secretary and encourage articles to be written for publication
 - iii. Report Accepted.
- f. **Biological Recorder** – No report submitted because RH did not know the meeting was taking place (see section 1.a)
- g. **Geological Recorder** – written report submitted
 - i. AF provided an update on current research.
 - ii. AF has received a request from Vanessa Johnston, a UBSS member, to collect a guano sample. AF believes this is part of a very interesting piece of research.
 - 1. The group is happy in principle for guano samples to be collected under the supervision of AF

5. Election of Officers

- a. **Secretary** - Proposals :-
 - i. Fleur Loveridge – proposed AG, 2nd MB – 9 votes
 - ii. Stuart France (not present – letter submitted) – proposed ML, 2nd CS – 4 votes
 - iii. FL elected
- b. **Treasurer** – SD re-elected unopposed
- c. **Permit Secretary** – Proposals :-
 - i. Mary Rogers – proposed ML, 2nd OC – 5 votes
 - ii. Sue Mabbett – proposed CD, 2nd SD – 7 votes
 - iii. SM re-elected
- d. **Conservation Officer** – BL re-elected unopposed
- e. **Survey Secretary** – Proposals :-
 - i. John Pybus – proposed BL, 2nd CD – 6 votes
 - ii. John Stevens – proposed ML, 2nd CS – 5 votes
 - iii. JP re-elected
- f. **Biological Recorder** – RH re-elected unopposed
- g. **Geological Recorder** – AF re-elected unopposed

6. Constitutional changes

- a. The following amendments were accepted. Proposed ML, 2nd AG

- i. Para 4.10 refers to the, now defunct, National Caving Association: it should be replaced by the British Caving Association.
 - ii. Para 6.5 now appears rather archaic in specifying "contact ... by telephone or post": I propose that just "contact" will suffice and subsume email or whatever wonders may turn up in the future.
 - iii. Paras 6.9, 6.11, and 10.1 all require requests for items to be included on the agenda of a meeting to be submitted at least two weeks before notification of that meeting goes out (ie 6 weeks before as opposed to 4 weeks before the meeting date). I propose that this be changed to two weeks after notification of the meeting.
- b. In addition, the following amendment, suggested by ML to AG, was not pursued. However, the constitutional frequency of the Group meetings needs to be reviewed. **To be discussed at next AGM.**
- i. I assume you will be proposing that the wording of para 6.2 be changed to something like 'meetings will held when considered appropriate ...'

7. Landowner Issues

- a. Landover relations improving.
- b. Cavers are avoiding parking in the Lamb & Fox car park and are parking in the upper car park or on the road.
- c. More cavers are starting to use the pub again.
- d. Log book still to be moved to Cairn Junction as actioned at previous meeting, **FL to action.**
- e. Peter Jones reports entrance digging activity beyond the mast on Gilwern Hill, it is not clear exactly what this is. Investigation required, hopefully more information to follow.

8. New Member Clubs

- a. University of Bristol S.S. requested to join the group.
 - i. Proposed CS, 2nd JP – Accepted.
- b. Better publicise membership and actively recruit new member clubs

9. Proposal for the opening of the 2nd entrance

“Grwp Ogofeydd Garimpeiros propose that the current (blocked) second entrance to Ogof Draenen be re-opened with immediate effect in order to encourage and facilitate exploration in the further reaches of the system.”

- a. BW proposed that this agenda item was not constitutional, as the land owner had not directly be invited to attend the meeting.
- b. OC notified the committee that he was digging near the Draenen resurgences
- c. EL stated that having spoken to Peter Jones regarding 2nd Entrances, the landowners would follow the group’s advice.
- d. After some discussion which was curtailed due to lack of time, the motion as submitted by Garimpeiros was put to a vote.
 - i. 1 for, 11 against and 3 abstentions

- e. It was decided to call an EGM in October 2010 to discuss second entrances and the group's current second entrance policy. FL to produce and circulate an agenda

10. AOB

- a. In a letter to read out at the meet, Clive Gardner offered to help with the production of an historic record, should one be undertaken.
- b. JS requested that the group's survey policy also be reviewed at October's EGM.

Meetings closed at 10:35pm