

PWLL DU CAVE MANAGEMENT GROUP

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held at the Lamb and Fox on Saturday 20th November 2010 commencing at 7.30pm.

Attendees:

Mick Day		Chairman
Fleur Loveridge	Oxford University C.C.	Secretary
John Pybus	Oxford University C.C.	Survey Secretary & Club Rep
Chris Seal	Chelsea S.S.	Club Rep
Ali Garman	Draenen Diggers	Club Rep
Ben Lovett	Morgannwg C.C.	Conservation Officer & Club Rep
Owen Clarke	Cwmbran C.C.	Club Rep
Charles Bailey	CSS/Hades	Trustee
Tim Barter	Westminster S.G.	Club Rep
Sue Mabbett	South Wales C.C.	Club Rep
Richard Hill	Gagendor	Club Rep
Richard Bayfield	Bristol Exploration Club	Club Rep
Peter Talling	University of Bristol S. S.	Club Rep
Elsie Little	Cambrian Caving Council	
Stuart Reid	Countryside Council for Wales	
Chris Belton	Aberystwyth C.C / BEC	
Henry Patton	Aberystwyth C.C	
Rich Smith	Aberystwyth C.C	
Martin Farr	Cave Diving Group	

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Andy Farrant (Geological Recorder), Chris Densham (Oxford UCC), Spencer Drews (Treasurer) and Paul Stacey (Croydon CC).

2. Minutes of the last Meetings (3rd July 2010)

The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record by the Chair.

Post meeting note: it needs to be recorded that due to an administrative error on the part of the secretary the Croydon CC rep did not receive notification of the July 2010 meeting. This temporary problem with the distribution list has now been rectified.

3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the Agenda

Elsie Little is still planning to produce some publicity material about the need to eat with care when underground.

4. Officers Reports

a) Secretary

The Secretary's report is attached with the minutes.

b) Treasurer

A report was circulated in the Treasurer's absence (attached).

The need to retain a viable bank balance as a "float" was discussed and it was agreed that the **Treasurer should write to the Member Club Reps and Secretaries and ask for a donation.** A suggested donation value was £20.

It is anticipated that a grant will be available from the Cambrian Caving Council to help finance the new gate.

c) Permit Secretary/Access Officer

SM presented caver numbers for this year up to 6th November inclusive. Last year there were a total of 350 caver visits. This year the figure is 290 at this stage, so it looks likely that last year's total will be exceeded.

The problems with deciphering the logbook were not so severe for the last six months. Nonetheless, as Gareth Owen from the CCW has confirmed that the CCW produce the sign-in sheets used at Llangattock, it was agreed to move to such pre-printed preformed sheets. **Stuart Reid/Gareth Owen will arrange production of the sheets.**

d) Conservation Officer

There are no major conservation issues currently beyond the issue of the gates (see below). The earlier reported mould "trail" has now gone, but some mould does persist in the usual resting spots.

A re-taping weekend for the cave is planned for the 26th March 2011. This will require several kilometres of conservation tape. **EL to obtain.**

e) Survey Secretary

FL was the only person to have provided survey data in the last year. The Survey Secretary remains open to receipt of data for the pool.

f) Survey Recorder

The Survey Recorder was not present.

g) Biological Recorder

The Biological Recorder was not present.

Stuart Reid had received some correspondence from Prof. John Altringham of Leeds University regarding the study of the bat population. **SR to check whether this work had already commenced.**

The CCW are also likely to a survey for horseshoe bats in January or February 2011. This is part of the ongoing monitoring programme and is likely to be carried out by Peter Smith as before.

h) Geological Recorder – unable to attend.

5. Other Business

a) Removal of Gates

The Secretary's Report contains an account of the removal of the gates from Ogof Draenen and Drws Cefn. Since compilation of the report the replacement gate has been completed and collected and is now ready for installation. Many thanks to Pete Cardy for his hard work in manufacturing this.

There was some discussion about the need for bat access at the Ogof Draenen entrance. Previous reports by Peter Smith for the CCW have suggested that bats have at least in the past actively made use of cave passages near the entrance and hence bat access in this area is highly desirable. While bat access historically and presently via the caver route is considered unlikely, installing the original gate could have changed the drafts. The new gate, similar to the previous gate and those at OFD, does not provide bat access. However, the need for its urgent installation was recognised and it was agreed to promptly investigate other bat access options near the entrance. A hole nearby had previously been noted and this was to be investigated. **AG and SR to meet on site to discuss.**

The CCW and EL are to assist FL with identification of a new Licenced bat worker to assist with plans for securing Drws Cefn.

Post Meeting note: the new gate is now installed.

b) Balcony Pitch

AG has been busy arranging replacement gates. Now this is complete he plans to return to plans to install the new ladder at Balcony Pitch.

c) Constitutional Changes

A brief run through of potential constitutional changes (attached) was made ahead of next year's biennial meeting in order to a save time at future meetings. Although the changes will not be in place until after that meeting it was suggested that Officers may wish to stand down ahead of election (or otherwise abstain from voting) in next June's meeting.

Election of Officers: In the additional clause following 5.6 regarding voting in elections, the proposed change is to be split into two parts for purpose of voting on the change. This is because it may not be desirable to lose representation of a club in an election even if that club representative is standing for election.

Meetings: FL to check with the landowners whether 1 meeting per year is sufficient.

EGMs: a further clause or clarification is required about how can call and EGM (eg a percentage of the membership, the executive or if agreed at the previous AGM).

6. Applications for membership

An application for membership was received from Aberystwyth Caving Club who are active within the cave on tourist and digging trips. Their membership was accepted and they were welcomed to the Group.

7. Other Business

Happy birthday Ben Lovett.

Meetings closed at 8.52pm

Next meeting in June 2011 at a date to be agreed.