

# PWLL DU CAVE MANAGEMENT GROUP

**Minutes of the Meeting held at the Salisbury Hall, Govilon, on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2014 commencing at 2pm.**

## **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
Peter Smith	Chelsea S. S.	Biological Recorder
Chris Densham	Oxford U. C. C.	Club Rep & Trustee
Richard Hill	Gagendor	Club Rep
Chris Seal	Chelsea S.S.	Club Rep
Stuart France	Cambrian Caving Council	
John Pybus	Oxford UCC	Survey Officer
Spencer Drew	M.C.C	Treasurer & Club Rep
Steve King	Shepton Mallet C.C.	
Paul Shea		

## **1. Apologies**

Apologies received from Tim Barter (WSG), Charles Bailey (Trustee), Henry Patton (Conservation Officer), Andy Farrant (Geological Recorder), John Stevens (Survey Recorder). *Post meeting note: apologies were also received from Peter Talling, but not proffered at the meeting.*

## **2a. Minutes of the last Meetings (23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012)**

There was one change to the minutes from the last meeting; a mis-recording of the name of the Gagendor Club Rep was corrected.

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

## **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 report is attached with the minutes.

With respect to the recent rock fall in Dollimore series it was suggested leaving the rope pulled up at the top of the climb in future in case of further movements.

### **b) Treasurer**

The accounts are attached with the minutes. Since the last meeting there have been costs associated with padlocks and keys (see also Permit Secretary report), but these have been covered by donations. Potential future expense relate to tape, and replacement of ropes (see also Fixed Aids report). There have been changes at the CCC since the last meeting but the treasurer has not heard that this will

affect the potential for recovering costs for the Council. The treasurer will contact the new CCC Treasurer Ian Adams.

c) Permit Secretary/Access Officer

The Permit Secretary presented the caver data up to early June 2013:

**Trips Recorded in Ogof Draenen Nov 2013 to Oct 2014**

	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14
Parties	7	3	6	5	7	5
Persons	25	12	22	25	26	18

	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-13	Dec-13
Parties	0	0	0	0	10	5
Persons	0	0	0	0	43	18

Total = 189

Caver numbers are up compared to 2013.

Key income has been received from SWCC (replacement of two keys, one lost by the rescue, and a donation), Cwmbran CC (lost key) and Shepton MCC (to become a keyholder once again).

The Permit Secretary had purchased a new padlock (lodged with Chris Howes) as mandated at the last meeting. She had also purchased a new combination lock for emergency use which will be lodged with Fraser Stephens. Both parties live conveniently close to the cave.

More logbook sheets are now required. A two prong approach was agreed, FL to contact NRW for further copies, while SM to wipe clean and recycle old sheets (after copying). More pencils are also required, SM to procure.

d) Conservation Officer

No report.

e) Survey Secretary

The Survey Secretary reported that no survey information had been provided or reported, and that no requests had been made for data. Provision of data for the national cave data repository had not yet taken place.

f) Survey Recorder

No report.

g) Biological Recorder

There was nothing to report.

SM provided details of bat observations from the logbook and there followed a discussion on the usefulness of such data. The Biological Recorder suggested that the most benefit from such observation related to their geographical distribution (eg sightings in unusual places) rather than density information.

h) Geological Recorder.

No report.

i) Fixed Aids Officer

The annual inspection cycle is June to June with the 2014 inspection having occurred on the 21<sup>st</sup> June (appended to minutes). All the metalwork is fine. The ropes are also OK, but due to their age will need replacing soon.

The prices for steel wire for use in Indiana Highways were reported (£10-12/metre depending on diameter), with the conclusion that the case was not convincing financially for this sort of use.

The loose/detached scaffold bar in the entrance shaft has now been replaced.

A loose boulder in the crawl above the wet slot in the entrance series has also been made safe.

**4. Election of Officers/Recorders**

N/A

**5. Other Group Business**

N/A

**6. Applications for membership**

None received.

However, Shepton Mallet CC, having now become a keyholder again, are to consider whether they wish to join.

**7. Applications to become keyholders**

None received.

**8. AOB**

CS suggested that no further action should happen with respect to Drws Cefn until a review of the CRoW situation had occurred, including knowledge of the forthcoming barrister's decision.

CD raised the issue of the G5 survey and the role of the survey recorder in making this available. It was concluded that there appeared to have been little progress in this respect.

AG reported that South and Mid Wales Cave Rescue Team would like to run a rescue practice in Draenen on the 6<sup>th</sup> December, possibly including work in Indiana Highways and White Arch areas. FL to inform the landowner, following official correspondence from SMWCRT.

AG raised the point that it will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of Draenen in October.

SF raised the issue of a letter sent by the committee of the Cambrian Caving Council to the PDCMG dated 30<sup>th</sup> May. No such letter had been received by the Secretary and

SF suggested it must be lost in the post. SF read out the letter which is appended to these minutes. The letter concerned the potential for a new interpretation of the CRoW (see also Secretary Report) and the implication for Drws Cefn. There was also the suggestion that the Group could be implicated in the event of rescue from the further reaches (gross negligence), although this was disputed by others. The policy of CCC to improve access, while safeguarding conservation was noted, as was the BCA policy of landowners views being sacrosanct.

CS suggested that the Group should hold off on action with respect to Drws Cefn until the CRoW situation is clarified, however, in practically no action is likely to occur in that timescale. Meanwhile preparatory work will continue. It was agreed to revisit the facts if there is a change in legal interpretation (this interpretation must come from NRW).

It was noted that the CSS committee would like to see Drws Cefn open as a route for rescue (inwards) or for self-rescue (outwards).

Next meeting to be held on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2014 at 10pm. .

## *Secretary's Report*

### **PDCMG Secretary's Report 22/06/2014**

There are a couple of "follow ups" from the last meeting on which I would just like to comment briefly:

- **BCA Statement on access and commercial caving.** I was at the BCA AGM last weekend and it was stated that this had been finalised, however, I have been unable to obtain a copy from the website and have therefore emailed Damian Wear, BCA Secretary.
- **Gate/Padlock issues.** There have been no further troubles with the padlock or gate and so I have not taken any further action in this area. When I have the BCA statement I will go to the landowner about both this and a possible return to a combination lock in the future as previously discussed.

**BCA AGM and CRoW.** At the BCA AGM last weekend there was a lot of discussion about the applicability of land covered by CRoW (The Countryside and Rights of Way Act) to caving. A lot of research by some individuals has shown a potential argument for inclusion of caving within CRoW. They are currently waiting for an opinion from a barrister as to whether this argument is potentially sound. Provision of that opinion could be available very soon, and although this does not immediately change anything (a revised interpretation would need to come from National Resources Wales before any rights to cave are proffered), clearly some cavers may think it does. Either way, while CRoW does not affect Ogof Draenen, it does affect Drws Cefn. On that front, my most recent bat consultant has again gone quiet and I have spent a lot of time lately obtaining quotes for the job to be done on a commercial basis as a fall-back position and also researching grants that may help us with the cost of this. This approach is in line with previous discussions of this Group.

**Instability in Dollimore.** A recent rockfall has occurred at Hall of the One in Dollimore Series, with a substantial volume of boulders moving downslope through the opening to Into the Black Passage. The consequences of this are that:

- The rope on the climb down between Hall of One and Into the Black was damaged in two places and has now been replaced (note this is not an official fixed aid).
- There is a fresh layer of rocks on the boulder slopes which descends below the climb. Extra care is now required in this area as some of these boulders are loose.

There is no clear cause of the incident which appears to have been "spontaneous". I will be making news of this incident public through the usual channels.

## Treasurer's Report

<b>Pwll Du Cave Management Group</b>									
<b><u>Income And Expenditure Account For the Year Ended 31st May 2014</u></b>									
		Period ending 31/05/14		Period ending 31/05/13		Period ending 31/05/12			
		£	£	£	£	£	£		
<b>Income:</b>									
<b>Donations:</b>									
	SWCC		80.00		0.00		70.00		
	F Loveridge		48.00		0.00		223.68		
	Cwmbran CC		20.00		20.00		0.00		
	S Drew		20.00		0.00		0.00		
	Wild Places Publishing		20.00		0.00		0.00		
	BEC		20.00		0.00		0.00		
	Shepton Mallet CC		20.00		0.00		0.00		
	CSS		0.00		20.00		0.00		
	Devon SS		0.00		20.00		0.00		
	Gagendor		0.00		20.00		0.00		
	Deven SS		0.00		20.00		0.00		
	York Un CC		0.00		10.00		0.00		
	WSG		0.00		0.00		60.00		
	OUCC		0.00		0.00		20.00		
	UBSS		0.00		0.00		20.00		
Refund From CCC	(Insurance)		50.00		50.00		50.00		
Refund From CCC	(Hall hire)		76.00		0.00		0.00		
Bank Interest:			0.00		0.00		0.00		
			354.00		160.00		443.68		
<b>Expenditure:</b>									
	New lock and Keys		(389.82)		(62.40)		0.00		
	BCA Insurance		(50.00)		(50.00)		(50.00)		
	Llanelly Hall Hire		(48.00)		(28.00)		0.00		
	Glo-tape		0.00		0.00		(223.68)		
	Administration costs		0.00		0.00		0.00		
			(487.82)		(140.40)		(273.68)		
<b>(Deficit) of Income Over Expenditure</b>			<b>(133.82)</b>		<b>19.60</b>		<b>170.00</b>		
<b><u>Notes to the above for the year ending 31st May 2014</u></b>									
			<b>2014</b>		<b>2013</b>		<b>2012</b>		
The closing balance actually requests the following:									
	Balance in current A/c		307.61		441.43		421.83		
	Balance in Reserve A/c		0.10		0.10		0.10		
	Total Funds		<u>307.71</u>		<u>441.53</u>		<u>421.93</u>		
As usual I will try and reclaim as much expenditure as I can from CCC in the coming year.									
Many thanks to all the clubs that donated monies in the past year to cover the costs of the lock replacements.									
Spencer Drew ACA DipPFS BSc									
Treasurer									

## Fixed Aids Report

No.	Location	Identification	Specification	PPE	Installed By	Installation Date	Inspection Due	Rigging Comments	Inspection 08/06/13 - FL & CD	Inspection 09/06/12 - AG	Inspection 21/06/14 - FL & CD
1	Entrance Climb	1st backup Eco hanger furthest from pitch head	DMM Eco hanger	Yes	CCC	??	08/06/2014	Un-used	OK	OK	OK
2		Middle Eco hanger	DMM Eco hanger	Yes	CCC	??	08/06/2014	Rope tied directly into Eco hanger	Hanger rotates very slightly. Loaded perpendicularly so not a concern	Hanger rotates slight. Loaded perpendicularly so not a concern	Hanger rotates slight. Loaded perpendicularly so not a concern
3		Main hang Eco hanger	DMM Eco hanger	Yes	CCC	??	08/06/2014		Resin does not completely fill the hole flush to the surface	Resin does not completely fill the hole flush to the surface	Resin does not completely fill the hole flush to the surface
4		MR for 3rd Eco hanger	10mm Long Open MR	Yes	AG & JC	24/04/2010	08/06/2014		Some minimal surface corrosion	Some minimal surface corrosion	Some surface corrosion
5		Traverse and knotted handline	11mm Edelrid Superstatic	Yes	AG & JC	24/04/2010	09/06/2014		OK	OK	OK
6	Indiana Highway	1st Eco hanger from Indian Highway end	DMM Eco hanger	Yes	CCC	??	09/06/2014	Tied directly into Eco hanger	OK	OK	OK
7		2nd Eco hanger	DMM Eco hanger	Yes	CCC	??	08/06/2014		OK	OK	OK
8		MR for 2nd Eco hanger	10mm Long Open MR	Yes	AG & JC	24/04/2010	08/06/2014		OK - slight surface corrosion	OK	OK - some surface corrosion
9		3rd Eco hanger	DMM Eco hanger	Yes	CCC	??	08/06/2014		OK	OK	OK
10		MR for 3rd Eco hanger	10mm Long Open MR	Yes	AG & JC	24/04/2010	08/06/2014		OK - slight surface corrosion	OK	OK - some surface corrosion
11		4th Eco hanger	DMM Eco hanger	Yes	CCC	??	08/06/2014	Tied directly to Eco hanger	OK	OK	OK
12		Traverse line	11mm Edelrid Superstatic	Yes	AG & JC	24/04/2010	09/06/2014		OK	OK	OK
13	Balcony Pitch	Left hand Eco hanger	DMM Eco hanger	Yes	CCC	??	09/06/2014		OK	OK	OK
14		MR for Left Eco hanger	12mm Long Open MR	Yes	AG & MS	22/05/2011	08/06/2014		OK - slight surface corrosion	OK	OK
15		Right hand Eco hanger	DMM Eco hanger	Yes	CCC	??	08/06/2014		OK	OK	OK
16		MR for Right Eco hanger	10mm Delta MR	Yes	AG & MS	22/05/2011	08/06/2014		OK - slight surface corrosion	OK	OK - slight surface corrosion
17		MR for Left of ladder	10mm Long Open MR	No	AG & MS	22/05/2011	08/06/2014		OK - slight surface corrosion	OK	OK - very slight surface corrosion
18		MR for Right of ladder	10mm Long Open MR	No	AG & MS	22/05/2011	08/06/2014		OK - slight surface corrosion	OK	OK
19		MR for lifeline	10mm Long Open MR	Yes	AG & MS	22/05/2011	08/06/2014	Linked into Delta MR	OK - slight surface corrosion	OK	OK - some surface corrosion
20		Looped ladder lifeline	11mm Edelrid Superstatic	Yes	AG & MS	24/04/2010	08/06/2014	Runs through 10mm MR	OK	OK	OK
21		Stainless Steel Ladder	Daren style ladder	No	AG & MS	22/05/2011	08/06/2014	Lifeline is the PPE	OK	OK	OK
22		Chain for rigging ladder	10mm Zinc Plated chain	??	AG & MS	22/05/2011	09/06/2014		OK - slight surface corrosion	OK	OK

## ***Letter From CCC***

A copy of the draft letter was taken by hand in the meeting. The following copy of the letter was received by post after the meeting, having been sent subsequently by recorded delivery.

