



SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB
CLWB OGOFEYDD DEHEUDIR CYMRU



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

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And guidance notes

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It should be noted that whilst all Club Members may attend the AGM, **only** Full Members, Honorary Members and both parties of a Joint Membership are entitled to vote. All **voting** participants are requested **kindly to sign in at the start of the meeting.**

Item 3.0 MINUTES OF THE 2013 AGM

Item 5.0 AUDITORS REPORT TO THE 2014 AGM

I have audited the accounts for the financial year 13/14 and am satisfied that the transactions have been accounted for accurately and the financial statements show a true and fair view of the club's current financial position.

I therefore issue an unqualified opinion.

During the audit I have not investigated and have no comment to make on other matters including, but not limited to, financial strategy, appetite for risk and the financial position of the club as a going concern, as I consider these as a matter for the members via the committee and AGM.

Janine Graham
March 2014.

Item 6.0 OFFICERS REPORTS TO THE 2014 AGM

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The year May 2013 to May 2014 has seen the sad departure of SWCC members current and past. Elsie Little's death came as a shock to most members. Her larger than life personality will ensure that her memory will live on for many years with all of the members who knew her. Jan Hawes also passed away in the last year, a sad loss to her family and of course her husband Les.

A well attended summer trip to Cantabria saw a large number of club members undertaking a number of the world's finest through trips such as Cueto – Coventosa, Red Del Silencio and the Gandara Traverse. A further return trip was made to the Gorner Glacier. A program of club meets to various regions within the UK has matured and now the club enjoys a regular program of varied and interesting trips available to all members. The club, through the fine efforts of a small number of members, again secured best stand at the BCA's Hidden Earth event.

As is dealt with by others elsewhere in this document Les Hawes has resigned his position as trustee for the club. I have written to Les on the club's behalf and thanked him for his fine work over the years.

I shall take this opportunity to update the membership as to the on-going matter of the club's property and in particular that portion subject to the tenancy of Gareth Evans (deceased). As many of you will be aware Gareth Evans died on 22nd January 2014. When the club purchased the land in 1998 Mr Evans was already in occupation of the land and indeed it is

suggested by some that the purchase price paid for the land was much reduced because of his tenancy.

Over the years that followed the purchase, the club attempted to formalise the tenancy with Mr Evans and indeed by 2003 the officers of the club believed that a formal tenancy agreement had been achieved and signed off by both parties. A perpetual minute was created to alert the club officers of the need to follow a particular course of action in the event of Mr Evans' death.

As successive committees have continued to administer the club, the matters of land administration have become more involved and complicated. A change of club solicitor about eight years ago was in part linked to a desire by the club to register its holdings with Land Registry and to regularise and document key matters. As a part of these processes through the period 2006 to 2013 it was discovered that the club could not locate a signed copy of the tenancy agreement that it believed it had made with Mr Evans. Various attempts to locate one within the club came to nought and the club took legal advice from its solicitor as to the implication of not having a signed agreement.

This advice was received in May 2012. The club was advised in the first instance to serve a notice on the tenant requiring him to enter into a formal written legal agreement with the club by serving what is known as a 'section 6' notice. The section 6 notice was served on Mr Evans on 19th July 2012. The club received no response from Mr Evans to its section 6 notice. This result was reminiscent of early club dealings with Mr Evans. The club again sought legal advice from its solicitor. The club was advised that without a formal written tenancy the club's position was not secure. The club was advised therefore to proceed to issue a notice to quit. This notice was served on 1st November 2012 with effect to vacate the land by the 1st January 2014. By counter notice dated 8th November 2012 Mr Evans' solicitors served notice upon the club that any attempt to terminate the tenancy would be subject to the consent of an Agricultural Land Tribunal. Various documents were provided by Mr Evans' solicitors in support of a 1986 Agricultural Holdings Act tenancy. Of significance in the view of the club committee at that time was that the copy of the tenancy agreement supplied with Mr Evans' counter notice was not signed by Mr Evans.

The club's solicitor wrote to Mr Evans' solicitor again on 9th November 2012 denying the content of the counter notice and claiming that Mr Evans held at best a 1995 Agricultural Tenancies Act tenancy. The letter also repeated its request for a signed copy of the 2003 agreement. No response was ever received to that letter and the matter was left until January 2014.

In the months leading up to January 2014 the club changed its firm of solicitors. One of the items asked of the new solicitors was to verify the legal advice of the previous solicitors. With January 2014 approaching, the officers of the club believed that it was in the club's best interests to be absolutely certain as to its legal position before becoming involved in a dispute with Mr Evans. Advice from a leading barrister was commissioned on 9th December 2013. This advice was received by the club on 10th March 2014. In the intervening period of course Mr Evans had passed away. The advice received by the club was that Mr Evans had held a 1986 Agricultural Holdings Act tenancy but because of the year in which that tenancy commenced, it did not include with it any succession right. The club has been advised to serve a new notice in accordance with case G of the 1986 act. The effect of that notice will

be to terminate the tenancy once and for all and return the land into the full control of SWCC with effect from the 1st January 2016.

Following a unanimous vote at the February 2014 committee meeting the club solicitor was instructed to serve the case G notice upon the executors of the Gareth Evans estate. At the time of writing this report the club has yet to receive a response to that notice.

Gary Vaughan April 2014.

TREASURER'S REPORT 2013-14

The club is £5622 better off than at the end of the last financial year, a 10% growth in SWCC's 'liquid' assets.

At the end of the a very active year which included floor and male toilets renovation, it a credit to members, both within and outside the committee, for budgeting with care, attracting greater member participation rates, encouraging increased use of the accommodation by visitors and attracting income from sales of club merchandise both in the HQ and outside, for example, at the Hidden Earth Conference (where SWCC was awarded 'Best Club Stand'). There remain many competing demands for the use of limited funds and members with particular enthusiasms must still recognise that the committee must frequently make difficult decisions concerning the appropriate use of the club's liquid assets. For those who disagree with the outcomes, standing for a committee post is a good way of contributing to the decision making process!

Other events and trends

- The need for careful energy use continues. Members, when resident, must not to demand the heating they might expect at home and also should support the Club with acts of simple energy management, whilst encouraging our non-club visitors to do the same. The success of the draught reduction door into the changing rooms is perhaps the pointer for the focus of future cost and comfort management schemes.
- There has again been no use of the camping area by the Army this year, with a considerable negative impact on our income.
- Most weekends were blessed with top quality duty officer financial management. However there were still too many when sporadic or no D.O. cover created some financial risks and/or a lack of data. A secure paying-in box has been installed with envelopes to reduce the burden on DOs, make fee collection easier when there is no DO present, collecting mid-week payments and giving higher security to money left un-monitored in the insecure DO cupboard. It also allows visitors to pay at a time convenient to them. It is a recommendation that the club starts to move towards all visitors paying on arrival when it is convenient and possible to do so, further reducing

the workload of DO's on Sunday morning when trying to find 'departed' and slumbering debtors.

- There is a trend within university /college clubs for employed post-graduates to continue as members of and to cave with their old club. Some recent groups booked as students contain significant numbers of ex-students. Our student discount is there to support impoverished students and DOs should note that discount applies only current students within pre-booked groups.
- There were no claims for travelling expenses submitted by committee members during the year.

Subscriptions

Proposals to change the subscription rates for some categories and the timing of payments are part of the constitutional amendments to be considered in this AGM. Otherwise, the fees, revised last year, seem to have been both accepted without major negative impacts and with a modest growth in our liquid assets, members may feel that no change in fees is required this year. However the year's income growth is still insufficient to support saving for a major project e.g. roof replacement, and does not create a real increase in wealth if inflation is taken into account. Should the AGM vote to require that such savings should be initiated, a revised set of fees will have to be created on the basis of the perceived need. Otherwise considering that we are half way through the previously suggested 24month cycle of subscription and fees change, considered simpler and more stable than annual changes, no changes other than those related to the proposed constitutional amendments are recommended for the next year.

The treasurer's role

I have completed four years as treasurer, with the final one accepted on the premise that I would support the induction of assistant treasurers during the 2013-14 financial year and hence to have relinquished my role by the 2014 AGM. This plan, unfortunately, has not been successful as the assistant treasurers elected last year have been unable to take on the duties, for domestic reasons. I will not be standing for this post in the coming year, but will be willing to support the induction of the newly elected treasurer and to take on a monitoring role and substitute role if agreed and needed.

The role is of course, essential to the running of the club and requires time, some diplomacy, absolute honesty and basic accounting skills. In my time in post, I never achieved competence in the art of annual reconciliation but relied on professional members to support me in this aspect and also the integrity of knowing that all the money was there and it just needed putting in the right columns! I am sure that the new treasurer can rely on the support of those excellent duty officers, past treasurers, the membership secretary and other members of the committee and I also thank them for their invaluable assistance during the last 4 years.

South Wales Caving Club

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31st January 2014

	Note	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
		£	£
Income			
Subscriptions		9,464	8,749
Donations		589	469
Hut Fees	-1	20,647	15,356
Shower Boxes		447	633
Lockers		150	135
Interest		5	5
Sales	-2	850	785
Social Eve	-3	632	631
Grazing Land		0	629
Other Inco	-4	415	3,886
		33,199	31,277
Expenditu			
Headquarte	-5	19,569	21,748
Secretarial (includes News Shee		1,353	2,678
Newsletter		1,816	2,295
Equipment	-6	715	814
Items for S	-2	153	53
Training		0	0
Library		800	226
British Cav	-7	347	55
Expenditur	-3	0	0
Taxation	-8	0	0
Rescue	-9	0	0
Other Expe	-4	2,824	676
		27,577	28,544
Surplus/(Deficit) for		5,622	2733

Balance Sheet at 31st January 2014

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
	£	£
Assets		
Barclays Bank Current Account	42,621	38,144
Barclays Bank Deposit Accounts	<u>10,643</u>	<u>10,638</u>
Cash At Bank	54,264	48,782
BCA Insurance premiums due fro	3,193	3,053
Liabilities		
Corporation Tax	0	0
	57,457	51,835
Club Funds at 1st February 2013	51,835	49,102
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	5,622	2,733
Club Funds		
Club Funds at 31st January 2014	57,457	51,835

South Wales Caving Club

Notes to the Accounts

(1) Hut Fees

Takings in the year may be broken down as follows:

	<u>Nights</u>		<u>Fees</u>	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
			£	£
Club Members	1,654	1,778	8,584	5,613
Guests	1,111	1,139	6,634	5,716
Students / Camping	928	743	5,088	3,707
Children	152	162	342	320
	<u>3,845</u>	<u>3,822</u>	<u>20,648</u>	<u>15,356</u>

(2) Sales

		<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
		£	£
Income	Surveys	248	360
	Books	313	100
	Posters	5	2
	Mugs	256	98
	T-shirts and badges	28	226
		<u>850</u>	<u>785</u>
Expenditure	Books		53
	Mugs	153	
		<u>153</u>	<u>53</u>

(3) Social Events

		<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
		£	£
Income	Ceilidh	67	(45)
	Easter & Working Week	326	205
	Bonfire Night	111	254
	Mining Trip	105	118
	Mining Trip Hostel Deposits		(180)
	New Year's Eve		279
	Other	23	
			<u>632</u>
Expenditure		<u>0</u>	
	Social Events net surplus (deficit) in the year	632	631
	Social Events Fund balance brought forward	2,743	2,112
	Social Events Fund balance at 31st January 2013	<u>3,375</u>	<u>2,743</u>

(4) Other

		<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
		£	£
Income	Western Power Distribution Wayleave	19	3520
	Deposits for keys	10	10
	Other - batteries etc	36	
	OFD1 Land		280
	Sale of surplus materials and scrap	75	76
	25 Years Rent for Stump from Wealden	25	
	CCW for Top Entrance Maintenance	250	
			<u>415</u>
Expenditure	Funeral wreaths	153	
	OFD1 Land Gate		120
	Land Legal Fees	2,368	
	Burglar Alarm Maintenance	160	155
	Cave Locks		10
	Digging Grants	143	391
		<u>2,824</u>	<u>676</u>

(5) <u>Headquarters</u>		<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
		£	£
Costs	Gas	4,026	5,555
	Electric	1,972	1,931
	Telephone	374	275
	Repairs and development	7,359	8,733
	Equipment		
	Cleaning	2,625	1,976
	Mowing	529	
	Insurance	2,684	2,677
	Penwyllt Water Users Association		600
		<u>19,569</u>	<u>21,748</u>
			-
(6) <u>Equipment</u>		<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
		£	£
	Battery packs		25
	Rope	545	646
	Marquee parts		22
	Equipment Store Shelving		121
	Batteries	22	
	Drill Parts	148	
		<u>715</u>	<u>814</u>
(7) <u>British Caving Association</u>		<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
	Club Subscription	(75)	(75)
	Access Body Insurance	(50)	(50)
	Members Subscriptions/Insurance Paid	(3,229)	(3,053)
	Received from members for 2013	2,831	3,028
	Received from members for 2014	36	
	Debtor movement - money due from members	140	95
	Net surplus (deficit) for the year	<u>(347)</u>	<u>(55)</u>
(8) <u>Taxation</u>		<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
	Tax on interest earned on cash	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
(9) <u>Rescue</u>		<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
	Rent received for No. 2 Powell Street	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Donations to rescue	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Cottage Warden's Report

At the working week (or working fortnight) last year, we completely refurbished the cottage No. 8 front from ground floor to roof as the toilet floor was in danger of collapsing. A new floor was put in plus four WC's, three sinks and two urinals with lots of extra partitions and doors, including storage space for toilet rolls etc.

Plus a new loft hatch and floor in the loft space.

Some work was done on the car park to remove large puddles.

The manhole before the septic tank was renewed, and a new manhole put in near the septic tank.

Various other small jobs were completed, plus as usual lots of painting jobs.

I would like to thank all those who turned up and worked including the Soup Dragons, without the support of the willing helpers we could not do as much as we do.

This year we will be doing only small jobs that have been on the to do list for a number of years, the No. 6 porch will be made wind proof and door changed around. Some porch barge boards will be changed to plastic, and guttering and downpipes sorted.

The track entering our property has lots of potholes and work hopefully will be done on it. And of course lots of painting. Brian Clipstone. 05.04.14

Fixed Aids Officer's Report

The majority of the fixed aids have, once again, only required inspection and maintenance this year, the nuts on the stainless steel through bolts used to secure fixed aids have now all been replaced with 'nylock' type nuts.

The Great Oxbow ladder has required some remedial work, due to abrasion over a sharp edge, this is still safe to use but I recommend its replacement in the coming year.

Dave Dobson 19/04/2014

Editor's report

If the membership is happy for me to continue to do so then I am happy to carry on coercing and cajoling cavers into putting proverbial pens to paper to record SWCC activities and expert views. All submissions I receive between now and September will be published in the journal scheduled for this Autumn - perfectly timed to capture those summer expeditions and frolics.

However, I must make it clear that I shall remain in office for only one more term. My personal commitments are increasing, having taken on new challenges that must take priority over the remainder of this year and next, therefore I feel I can rise to the

challenge of one more issue of the SWCC Journal but will need to hand over to a fresh Editor for 2015.

Having carried the post of Editor for some years now, publishing informal news sheets and more formal looking 'glossy' productions, and hopefully having kept members suitably entertained, I am sure a fresh approach and a new look to SWCC publications would be welcomed - something a new and enthusiastic Editor can bring to the post. If anyone wants to learn more about what the role entails please get in touch and I'll pass on everything I know.

And in the meantime, (on the assumption that I shall continue as Editor for the coming months!!) help me make the next issue one to remember as my parting effort, by making a mental note to yourselves to forward me your stories and pictures. I'll be issuing instructions on how to submit your articles to make it easier both for authors and whoever the new Editor might be - look out for these via the eNews.

And finally, I should like to extend my thanks to those who have kept me in business to date, because it goes without saying that if it wasn't for you I wouldn't have been able to deliver the goods.

Communications / Webmaster Officer's Report

Hi folks

As I write this, the Easter weekend has just begun, the sun is out and I'm keen to get packed and down to the Club for a few days, so I'll keep this short!

I hope you've enjoyed your regular **e-News** emails this year – don't forget they are there for you to advertise upcoming trips, parties, expeditions past and future and anything newsy. Just a paragraph or two and a photo and you will have an audience of hundreds! If you are not receiving them please let me know your email address.

Our **website** www.swcc.org.uk continues to grow with videos, newsletters, trip reports and so-on – its a huge resource now with a big recent and historical archive – well worth digging into on a rainy day. Having said that it is now a bit long in the tooth technology-wise, and together with Piers I am looking at ways to bring the facilities up to date. **Some features under review** are – improving the calendar for events, trips and bookings, possibly allowing subs payments on-line, the ability for members to upload and share their own trip reports and pictures. Please feed back to me any ideas you have to improve things, whether you are a seasoned caver or newbie.

This year has seen even more amazing **videos** uploaded, due to some really expert camera work from members and increasingly capable technology, please keep them coming. Have you seen the “SWCC from the Air” footage from our very own husband and wife camera team. Quad ‘copter and GoPro indeed! Its only a matter of time before they have that thing flying down the middle of Gnome Passage.

FaceWall – if you are a new member and haven’t send me a mug-shot to put on the FaceWall, then please do – its a great way to get known and to find out who everyone is – I know I could have done with this in my early years at the Club. There’s a link under the Members’ tab.

Time for a change. Dear reader, it has been my pleasure to be responsible for website and e-News since 2006, fully 8 years! I am happy to carry on for one more year if elected, but I will stand down at the 2015 AGM. So now is the time to express your interest in getting on the cutting edge of website technology at the heart of Britian’s biggest and best caving club, and I will happily show you the ropes – its actually not that hard! Come and chat to me anytime.

So keep connected, keep sending me news, pictures and ideas to webmaster@swcc.org.uk and don’t forget that the very best social networking is in fact around the fire, in the kitchen, sharing a chocolate bar in the Great Oxbow or relaxing outside on the benches on a sunny morning with a cup of tea! See you there. Peter Collings-Wells Spring 2014

Assistant Secretary’s Report

I am pleased to report that unlike previous years, total membership numbers have increased as opposed to a general decline. We have 324 members in total. This would seem largely due to the £10.00 provisional fee introduced at the last AGM. There are though a couple of caveats that need to be addressed.

1. BCA insurance.

Many of the applications received have to be chased for this (either to pay or provide proof of existing BCA insurance through another club). Some of these are simply down to people not reading the application form, but many seem to be being misled? For example, I recently had three people who were told that they only needed to pay £10.00 for provisional membership and this would allow them to stay at the club on future visits at member’s rates. When asked by me for either their

BCA number or the appropriate fee to process their applications they weren't very happy! (Not yet resolved)

2. Conversion to full membership.

There is little point having large numbers of provisional members if these are not reflected in an increase to full status. This has always been a problem but the recent rise in provisionals has highlighted this (the original aim of the £10.00 provisional fee being to encourage, in particular, ongoing membership from the ex student population). The existing system in today's world makes it very difficult for many valid applications. An application to full membership needs two proposers, their names listed on the notice board for a minimum of six weeks and also to be known to a majority of the committee at the meeting their application is brought forward! In theory, a good way to weed out undesirables but for many these days, an insurmountable obstacle?

Les (Lel) Davies April 2014

CONSERVATION OFFICER'S REPORT

This last year has seen continual concerns regarding a minority of cavers' attitude toward conservation in OFD. There has been an incidence of speed-caving, more examples of mud throwing and still cavers step over conservation tapes and leave muddy prints on speleothems.

To try and educate visitors to OFD, a copy of the cave conservation code is now included with all permits issued. The Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is preparing notices that will be placed just inside each entrance to OFD, informing cavers that they are entering a Site of Special Scientific Interest and emphasising their responsibility to care for the unique environment that surrounds them. Once the wording has been agreed, I intend to have a similar notice issued with all permits.

I have carried out more work replacing conservation tape and cleaning formations with the help of Mr Allkins. I believe that first impressions are important and so in an effort to emphasise the significance of the environment that cavers are entering, I have re-laid all the tape inside Top Entrance, raising it off the floor by using stainless steel stand-offs inserted into loose blocks. This looks more specialized and hopefully focuses attention to the special status of the cave.

A potential problem has been highlighted by some of the OFD wardens regarding the crystal pool at the Elephant Trap. Cavers climbing over the edge of the drop are undermining the floor containing the pool. There is a traverse to avoid this but not all cavers can manage it and it still involves cavers standing on the edge of the drop to pass the pool. To avoid any possibility of the crystal pool disappearing into the Elephant Trap, a rigid ladder will be installed as a conservation aid to stop any further erosion of the floor by undermining and also allow cavers to step across the edge. Further to this, the

crystal pool has suffered over the years by an accumulation of sand along the side closest to where cavers pass. The NRW are providing a battery-powered vacuum cleaner that will give me the opportunity to remove the majority of the dry sand without touching the crystals.

It is important for us to be pro-active and to be seen to be pro-active in the area of cave conservation. Ogof Ffynnon Ddu is a SSSI and we have a duty of care, both as owners of part of the cave and as wardens and ambassadors of the NRW to protect the cave for its scientific content and for the enjoyment of the future generations of cavers. We have been extremely fortunate over the years in our relationship with the CCW and now NRW. Their officers have understood the importance of caves and the peculiarities of cavers. The NRW is a much bigger body than the CCW was and as it comes of age, there may be changes to personnel; we could find ourselves dealing with officers who are less able to appreciate our views and talents. This is why it is important that we are able to demonstrate evidence of our care and conservation of OFD, which in turn shows us to be an asset to the NRW and the appropriate responsible body to continue to administer access.

Finally, my thanks to all the members who continue to help in this task of their own volition. Bernie Woodley, April 2014.

Equipment Officers Report

Although there were no big planned projects this year, plenty of work has still been carried out in the stores. The trial of the Alpkit headlamps (which cost us a massive £11.50 each) has finished with the survivors being placed on the shelf for general use. For organised training / try caving trips, the Alpkits have been replaced with the more robust Petzl Pixars. Also, to support the work put in by Claire in organising some very well attended Try Caving trips, 5 sets of Cows Tails have been purchased to avoid the usual kit scrounging which takes place when taking groups into OFD1. The cowstails, Petzl Lights (along with batteries and chargers) and the club SRT kits are available for club training and/or Try Caving trips.

To support last year's Spanish expedition which had some significant pitches to deal with, a further 500m of rope has been purchased. As most of this remains in 100m lengths (a bit OTT for most of South Wales) it is currently kept separate from the main rope stores and is intended for expedition use.

50m of dynamic rope has also been added to the store. This is clearly marked and is a different colour to the (nearly) 1.5km of SRT rope. The dynamic rope is primarily intended for surface use, particularly for those wishing to play on the new climbing routes in the Party Quarry.

The signout system appears to be working well – a few kit issues have been reported and dealt with before they became a problem. Thanks to all users for supporting this system and making my life a bit easier.

A project to refurbish the failing drill batteries was started last summer – some work has been done but conflicting demands on my time have meant that this has not been finished as quickly as planned. As many of the drills are getting a bit long in the tooth, “off the shelf” batteries are becoming hard to find (impossible in the case of the Hilti drill). Discussion on whether or not to replace these as they fail would be welcome. I would go so far as to suggest that the majority of the club diggers now have their own drills so there is perhaps less need for the club to hold a stock. The AGM’s opinion on this matter would be useful for the incoming committee.

The only other problem that I have identified in the store which will need looking at in the next 12 months is a shortage of tackle sacks. Many of the old ones are almost transparent in places!

Thanks again to all for looking after the kit and the stores – I’ve had to do very little repair or clean up.

I am willing to stand again for the post of Equipment Officer at the AGM, although I will be unable to attend due to work commitments.

Piers

Training Officers Report

During the year, we've had some SRT training, I'm hoping to squeeze another event in before the summer. We've had photo workshops in the pipeline for quite some time which haven't happened yet, but they are going to happen in the autumn. If anybody has any specific training they want, or want to volunteer to run an event for the club, then please do get in touch. I will be happy to carry on. G. Edwards April 2014

Records Officers Report

The year has seen the usual purchases of books, exchanges of journals and donations by members. Collection maintenance and binding has also been continued.

Archiving is ongoing, thanks to the efforts of Jem Rowland (Photographic materials) and Sue Goodhead (Documents).

As ever Mary Hazeltons Dragon sleeps on in its allotted space. I am willing to stand again as Records Officer.

R. Allan Richardson

Item 7.0 LEGAL STATUS OF THE CLUB

South Wales Caving Club – AGM 2014 The Club’s Legal Status.

1. Introduction

Like many clubs SWCC was set up as, and has the governance structure appropriate to a traditional ‘club’. However the world has moved on since 1946 and society, expectations, attitudes to health and safety, statutory obligations and indeed the club have all changed significantly in the intervening years. Yet as a club we are still structured and endeavour to operate as we did in 1946 although we are in fact now, and have been for some time, a business - we run a hostel.

The Committee have become increasingly concerned about the risk, exposure and liability that members, club officers and our assets may be exposed to as a result of our current status. We are not alone. A number of other clubs and societies, including some highly respected northern caving and potholing clubs, are also concerned about, and have debated, the same issue and come to varying conclusions as befits their situation and activities. Some have changed their legal status to provide improved protection, but with the attendant, increased formality, complexity and cost of operation, others have chosen not to.

Following the 2013 AGM the committee set up a sub-committee (SC) to look into this with a mandate to produce report for the Committee by Dec 2013 and the 2014 AGM. In the best traditions of the Club the sub-committee was asked to spend only a very limited amount of money to support this work and to use contacts and expertise to develop their recommendations. This it has done and the work of the SC is complete. The report was presented to the Committee in Dec 2013 and they have considered and endorsed the recommendations and are now presenting it to the AGM.

The SC investigation was thorough and their report is comprehensive and quite lengthy – a copy has been placed in the members area of the Club website. This document is a précis of the report and seeks to present the main points.

At this point I would like to thank all the members of the sub-committee (Andy Freem, Fred Levett, Jem Rowlands, Kevin Diffey and Clark Friend), for giving up their time and energy to review this important issue for us.

Background

In law, SWCC is an ‘unincorporated association’ (UA). It has no independent legal existence separate from its members, committee members or trustees. As I mentioned earlier similar organisations to ours have reviewed their position and have become, or are seeking to become, ‘incorporated associations’ (IA) of one type or another, which do have an independent existence in law separate from the members. Others have chosen not to change.

There is no right option, rather it is a case of considering the advantages and disadvantages of each option and then selecting the one that best fits our attitude to risk, liability and exposure.

2. Liability

The book “Ashton and Reid on Clubs and Associations”, is a definitive work on law relating to clubs and associations and has been the primary source of reference for the sub-committee.

A UA is governed by common law and case law of which there is a large amount. This leads to uncertainty over the outcome of any legal action. An ‘incorporated association’ (IA) is governed largely by statute law, giving greater clarity in the case of legal action. An IA has a separate legal existence and the liability of all members is definitely limited (often to £1).

Action is not normally possible against a UA (such as SWCC) because it is not a legal entity. However, there are cases where action has been taken against all or some members by an aggrieved third party. In cases, Judges have limited the liability of members to the value of their entrance fee and cumulative subscriptions. However, committee members are personally liable without limit and this is seen as the biggest risk with a UA.

For example, after, say, an injury, an aggrieved third party could sue some or all of the committee, who would need to mount (and pay for) a defence in court or risk losing the case. Trustees, who own the property, may also be the occupiers under the Occupiers Liability Act and face similar action despite our constitution requiring them to act only on the instructions of the Committee. Adequate insurance could provide some protection and the Club has two insurance policies providing protection up to a certain limit. The use of disclaimers in certain circumstances is also important. Previously our insurer has paid out £10,000 following an injury to a visitor to settle a claim.

Since 2009, using complex legal argument, it has been recognised that a criminal prosecution can be brought against a UA rather than individual committee members but this appears to be rare in comparison with action against members or committee members. E.g. there is a

recent prosecution in mid Wales against nine committee members of a UA under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 following an accident. At the time of writing this case is ongoing.

3. The Sub-Committee's Recommendations

The SC also recommend that insurance is vital, noting that it appears to have been a claim in excess of the insured value that has created the current interest in change elsewhere. The Committee is confident about our insurance arrangements.

The SC have also recommended that if we should implement a more formal and modern approach to effective risk management.

This means identifying risks, quantifying them, and then demonstrably managing them to a level we are all happy with. The SC recommended a methodology and developed a preliminary Risk Register to demonstrate the point. The Committee supported this approach and, as part of its day to day management of the club, has set up a small group to manage the register and advise the Committee.

The SC does NOT recommend that SWCC should become an IA. Their view is that such a change would negatively alter the club atmosphere which we recognise is at the heart of SWCC. To quote from the report *"the choice is determined by relative priorities – ease of management or peace of mind. However it is far from simple. Ashton & Reid further state that if the club is well run, financially secure and does not want to borrow money then 'unincorporated', in their view, is satisfactory"*.

However in developing an embryonic risk register the SC have highlighted that many of the significant risks which have been identified, and which have to be managed, arise from visitors and our hostel operations which generate over 50% of our income. The SC have recommended that the creation of a type of IA, a company limited by guarantee, to which the hostel is leased to operate and maintain should be considered. The members of the company would be the Club members and a small Board of Directors who would answer to an AGM for its operation.

This AGM is not being asked to consider the options but rather whether, in the light of the SC report and this precise, they are sufficiently concerned about the issue that they wish the club to take paid legal advice on the matter for debate and consideration at a subsequent General meeting.

The expectation is that advice would include confirmation of our understanding of the risks to which our assets, members, and particularly Committee members, are exposed at a personal level.

4. Conclusions

The SC has done an excellent job in reviewing the issue and presenting their conclusions and some recommendations. The Committee has endorsed the SC report and are sufficiently concerned that they believe that the Club should take proper legal advice to inform the debate about what, if any, changes should be made to the way the club operates to better protect its assets, members and officers.

The following motions are therefore presented to the AGM for endorsement:

5. Proposals to be voted on at the AGM.

5.1 The AGM notes and supports the continuing, and possible improvement to, insurance for all members and officers and the active management of risk.

5.2 The AGM authorises the Committee to obtain legal advice concerning:

- a) the true nature of the liability facing members, Committee members and trustees in confirmation of the report of the Sub-Committee
- b) the options to reduce the exposure and risk to assets, members and officers, including advantages and disadvantage of each option. These options to particularly include the potential for a legal entity to sit within the club to operate aspects of the club. This advice to be reported to, and considered by, a future General meeting.

Paul Meredith
Chairman

Item 8.0 CONSTITUTIONAL AMMENDMENT

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

BACKGROUND

Although the role of SWCC President has no defined responsibilities it is by common consent a key role within the club. It is therefore something of an anomaly that whilst the appointment to this role is constitutionally optional the nomination process is quite restrictive and rigorous.

Currently nominees for club President must be club members, and their nomination must be signed by six full members, received by the Hon Sec at least 6 weeks before the General Meeting and posted to members at least 14 days before the general meeting. (There is a similar requirement for Honorary Life Members and Trustees). Compare and contrast this with the way in which Vice Presidents, Chairman and other committee roles can all be nominated from the floor at a general meeting.

The historical reason(s) for the long lead time are not understood and it is a trip wire that has caused us problems in the recent past. The Committee would therefore like to propose a constitutional amendment to address this.

The safety net of three weeks would still allow the secretary to circulate nominations to members 14 days before a meeting.

Current Constitution wording.....

11. GENERAL MEETINGS f). Notices of Motion and nominations for Honorary Life Members (and Trustees where a vacancy has arisen) signed by six full members, must be received by the Honorary Secretary at least six weeks before the Meeting, to be included in the Agenda. Nomination for Vice Presidentsetc.

Proposed Constitution wording.....

11. GENERAL MEETINGS f). Notices of Motion and nominations for Honorary Life Members (and Trustees where a vacancy has arisen) signed by six full members, must be received by the Honorary Secretary at least six weeks before the Meeting, to be included in the Agenda. Where no nominations for President have been received the Secretary may accept nominations up until three weeks before the Meeting. Each nomination shall be supported by six full members either in writing. Nomination for Vice Presidentsetc.

Explanation.....

6 weeks before the AGM is mid- March. This means that the nomination process has to be started in Feb or even Jan to gain the necessary signatures. Being so far in advance of the AGM has caused this to be overlooked in the past and with no fall-back position means we cannot then accept any late nominations for this important post.

Item 9.0 CONSTITUTIONAL AMMENDMENT

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND INCENTIVES

BACKGROUND

The skewed demographic of the club towards older members was noted and discussed at the 2013 AGM. After some debate it was decided that the joining fee may be a bar to some, particularly younger potential members and that as a matter of urgency the club would therefore temporarily lower the provisional membership fee to £10 for a period of one year.

The Committee was also actioned to investigate and bring back to the 2014 AGM a longer term proposals together with any proposed constitutional changes that may be required.

The Committee have reviewed the situation and offer the following thoughts to the AGM

1. The club's income is now significantly dominated by hut fees, not subscription fees.
2. The distribution of wealth within the wider society has changed significantly since the club's constitution was prepared in 1947. Where as older members of society were once generally less well off that younger members the balance has now shifted in the other direction.
3. The club already has 3 classes of membership and the introduction any new class of membership e.g. student or young persons members, would be a confusing and an unnecessary complication. Indeed it may even be divisive in creating a 'them' and 'us' attitude. The committee therefore recommend a solution that does not include the creation of an additional class of membership.
4. Constitutionally decoupling subscription fees for Provisional and Full members would give the AGM increased flexibility to amend either or both as circumstances dictate.
5. Whilst the club has traditionally sought to recruit new members from the university sector this is not the only source of new young members. Any solution should therefore recognise the needs and situation of provisional members who are not students.
6. The joint membership subscription rate was set when club communications were predominately by post to recognise the saving to the club of only sending one communication addressed to two people. The situation has now changed and the club makes increasing use of e communications and the financial saving to the club from joint membership is therefore significantly reduced.
7. The current subscriptions due date is out of sync with the BCA insurance due date which runs from Jan 1st. We therefore have to 'guess' how many members will re-join each year and incur wasted money when members do not rejoin.

In developing the proposals the Committee has sought to:

- Improve the flexibility of subscription fee setting by decoupling the constitutional link between Full and Provisional subscriptions and giving the AGM the responsibility and flexibility to set full and provisional membership independently
- Clarify, and harmonise, the wording relating to subscriptions, entrance fees and fees
- Include the option to provide an early payment incentive system

- Recognise the reduced saving to the club from joint membership as a result of the increased use of electronic communications
- Reduce monies wasted on paying BCA insurance costs for members who do not re-join.

Current Constitution wording.....

5. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- a) The Annual Subscription for Full and Junior Members is determined by the AGM. The Annual Subscription for Joint Full Members is 150% of Full Members. Entrance Fees are 50% of the annual subscription.
- b) Annual Subscriptions shall be payable on the day following the AGM. Any member who is more than four months in arrears of payment shall be deemed to have let their membership lapse.
- c) A person applying for Provisional Membership shall pay a fee to be set every year at the AGM. Payment covers Provisional membership until accepted as a Full or Junior Member.
- d) Persons admitted to Full, Junior or Joint Full Membership shall pay an Entrance Fee but are not liable to pay an Annual Subscription until the AGM following their admission.

Proposed Constitution wording.....

5. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- a) The Annual Subscription for Provisional, Junior and Full Members is to be determined by the AGM. The Annual Subscription for joint Full Members is 175% of that for Full Members. Applicants for, or members of, any class of membership who provide evidence of not having reached their 25th birthday on the day of the AGM, shall pay an Annual Subscription determined by the AGM, regardless of their class of membership.
- b) Annual Subscriptions shall be payable on the 1st Sept. The AGM may elect to implement an early subscription fee payment incentive scheme for the following year which shall apply for a period of 30 days after the day when the Subscriptions are payable. Any member who is more than two months in arrears of payment shall be deemed to have let their membership lapse.
- c) A person applying for Provisional Membership shall pay a Subscription to be set every year at the AGM. Payment covers Provisional membership until accepted as a Full or Junior Member.
- d) Persons admitted to Full, Junior or Joint Full Membership shall pay a pro-rata Subscription applicable to their new class of membership until the next subscription due date.

Explanation.....

Clause 5a... Flexibility of being able to set Provisional, Junior and Full membership separately at the AGM.

The cost saving to the club of reduced joint membership subscriptions is now much reduced. Club demographics and the need to encourage young, active, members to join. Age related discounts and incentive schemes are allowed under the Equalities Act 2010.

Clause 5b... The BCA insurance year runs from Jan 1st to Dec 31st. This means we have to 'estimate' who is going to re-join in the following May and pay their BCA insurance premium. Inevitably there is some wasted money. The change would also give us time to communicate the new subscription rates to members and still allow them time to take advantage of any incentive scheme. The incentive scheme has been used successfully for some years. The proposal is to regularise it in the constitution. Four months to pay is excessively generous.

Clause 5c... Consistency of language.

Clause 5d... Consistency of language.

Item 10.0 ROLES OF ESTATE MANAGER AND HUT WARDEN

The SWCC Estates Manager is responsible for:

Ensuring that the club estate and facilities meet statutory requirements especially, but not limited to, gas, electric, fire water and sewage. All paperwork and certificates to be current.

Point of contact with all external providers.

Ensuring that the club is properly and adequately insured in respect of third party liabilities.

Ensuring that any Working Weeks are adequately planned, budgeted, co-ordinated and organised.

Maintaining records of works done and services plans.

Development and maintenance of SWCC Estates O&M Manual. This to include maintenance and operating schedules, land and boundary plans, services plans and records of task done.

Annual physical review of boundaries, records of the review and actions arising

Ensuring grounds maintenance contract is in place

The SWCC Cottage Warden is responsible for:

Ensuring that work required on the cottages throughout the year is carried out

Ensuring consumable supplies are available

Sewage system maintenance including cess pit emptying

Ensuring that annual fire safety assessments including alarm tests and drills are carried out and any work arising is carried out.

Ensuring any visiting dogs are looked after

Water system maintenance

Input to, and assistance with, Working Week planning and delivery

Ensuring cottage cleaning rota, rubbish collection including bottles, and tea towels are in place.

Item 11.0 The Status of the Club's Trustees

Last year I spoke of a need for the Club to think about the status of Trustees, especially with regard to the idea of a 'term' of office. The Committee and the Trustees now seek a decision from the AGM on how to take this forward, with a view to identifying a preferred option, with any necessary Constitutional change (if needed) being brought to the 2015 AGM for adoption and then implementation of the option.

Initially the choices identified by the Trustees are, 1. Do nothing, 2. A fixed term of years, 3. An upper age limit at which a Trustee will either a) be expected to resign or b) be removed from Office, 4. An upper age limit with yearly re-appointment or removal by the AGM, 5. Any other sensible options from the AGM itself.

John Lister. Feb 2014.

Item 12.0 BCA 'Adopt a Club' Scheme - Southampton University Caving Club

Dear Member. As you may be aware already, a new scheme has emerged recently which encourages affiliations between established caving clubs and university clubs. The scheme is intended to increase connectivity between student cavers and non-university caving clubs so that students leaving university will have links to UK caving through a route other than the university that they have just left. The hope is that student cavers that may have dropped caving as a sport upon leaving university keep up links with the adopting club and hence remain connected with caving. The scheme would also provide students with access to the vast wealth of experience that may be held by the adopting club and of course reduced hut fees associated with affiliated clubs.

Towards the end of 2013 SWCC was approached by Southampton University Caving Club (SUCC) in connection with the Adopt a Club Scheme. Your committee have taken the view that the scheme in principle is a very positive initiative and fully compatible with the club's own initiatives to build links with student clubs. I was actioned to investigate the scheme and to establish its potential. This I have done. My report to the committee concluded that both clubs would benefit from such a relationship and insofar as the scheme can be configured to be renewed on a year by year basis the committee have taken the view that the scheme should be trialed for a year at least.

Negotiations with SUCC as to the terms of the agreement have been successfully concluded and a certificate has been drawn up. A copy of the proposed certificate is attached to this document below.

I would like to propose that this AGM endorses the committee's decision to embrace the Adopt a Club Scheme and that the AGM votes in favour of adopting SUCC for the period 3rd May 2014 to 1st May 2015 under the terms and conditions set out in the certificate attached below.

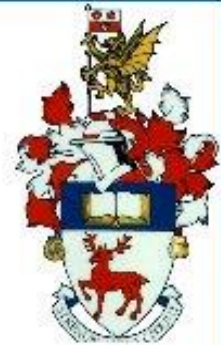
G. Vaughan. 09.04.14.

Space for Notes:



BCA 'ADOPT-A-CLUB' INITIATIVE

Certificate of Agreement



Terms as agreed by both parties:

1. Members of SUCC visiting the headquarters of SWCC shall be able to stay at the headquarters at member rates. SUCC shall, upon renewal of BCA insurance each year, provide the secretary of SWCC with a copy of the same members list as given to the BCA.
2. Both clubs will endeavour to enable links to and from their respective websites in a manner and style consistent with the special arrangement between the clubs. Invitations to events broadcast to the membership of each club shall in turn be broadcast to the membership of the adopting/adopted club to enable and encourage attendance at those club events by members of the adopting/adopted club. This will extend to and include where practicable e-news, journals social network sites etc. Where time and occasion allows each club shall issue a formal invitation specifically addressed to the membership of the adopting/adopted club E.g. Club dinners and formal presentations.
3. Each club shall provide to the other a formal e-mail address and postal address through which information can be shared and disseminated. In the absence of a specific contact address the address to be used shall be that of the club Secretary for each club. For the avoidance of doubt individual member's e-mail addresses are not to be shared between the clubs unless express permission is gained from the member(s) concerned.
4. The members of each club shall be entitled to join in and participate with trips and events organised by the other club as if the event or trip had been organised by their own club. This will include club organised caving trips at home and abroad and social events.
5. Each club undertakes to organise one event a year which shall include a social element and which shall be specifically organised to accommodate and engage with the other club in the spirit of building connections between the two clubs.
6. SWCC shall undertake to help and support SUCC, where practicable and possible, with a view to sharing the expertise available within SWCC and assist in the on-going development of SUCC and its members.
7. Each club shall upon its public notice board display a certificate recording the agreement reached between the clubs. The certificate shall be signed by an appointed representative of each club (typically the President of each club) and shall identify the name and contact details of the 'adopt a club' liaison officer appointed by each club.
8. This agreement shall run from the first Saturday of May in each given year for a period of twelve months. The club seeking adoption shall provide to the Secretary of the adopting club a certificate signed by its appointed representative no less than two weeks prior to the first Saturday in May. Upon counter signature by the appointed representative of SWCC the agreement shall become binding on both clubs for the following year.
9. A maximum of four SUCC members may stay at SWCC headquarters on any given weekend without prior notice or booking. Groups greater than four SUCC members shall be required to book accommodation through the usual process.

SWCC PRESIDENT

Signature.....

Date

SWCC LIAISON OFFICER

Name

E-mail

SUCC PRESIDENT

Signature.....

Date

SUCC LIAISON OFFICER

Name

E-mail

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB

CLWB OGOFEYDD DEHEUDIR CYMRU

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Miner's Welfare Hall, Abercraf, at 9.00 a.m. on Saturday the 3rd of May 2014.

1. Apologies for absence

14/A1. C. Vivian, J. Day, L. Cardy, S. Moore, K. Maddocks, P. Hallihan, G. Evans, H. Meredith, D & I Williams, J & B Mawson, J. Wellbelove, G. Edwards, N. Davies, H. Eteen, J & P Lukas, J & C Hutchinson. S. Mabbett, J. Carter,

There were 52 voting Members signed in – see archived sheets.

2. The Chairman's welcome and comments on 2013/2014

14/A2 Good morning, thank you for coming, and welcome to the 2014 SWCC AGM. We have a full agenda this morning and I shall therefore keep my introduction fairly brief.

However before we start I would like to ask for a minutes silence to remember those members who we have lost over the last year, most notably Elsie Little. Elsie was a long standing member and I am sure she would be the first to agree if we described her as being driven and a woman of strong mind, with often controversial views but with an absolute passion and commitment to life. A minutes silence please, for Elsie and other SWCC members who have passed away this year.

I am pleased to able to report that we remain a solvent, active, and a slightly less aged club than last year. Whilst this may seem a small achievement running a voluntary body comprising circa 300 members and a turnover of circa £30K takes time and it takes effort. I would therefore like to thank the committee and indeed all members and others who continue to give freely of their time and energy to help run the club, keep it legal, solvent, welcoming, vibrant and moving forward. We don't always get it right but I am, as I hope you are, grateful to them all for simply trying because without their efforts the club would simply not run.

Caving continues, as it should, to be at the fore front of our activities and this year there have been expeditions to Spain, club trips to Yorkshire and the other UK caving regions, as well as specific provisional, improver and conservation trips. The long awaited re-survey of OFD was completed this year and is now available for sale at a very modest price. Digging continues to be an esoteric past time and the club is proud to support its band of dedicated diggers. Although they have yet to find the elusive "passages measureless to man" they are to be applauded for their continued enthusiasm, commitment and unfailing optimism.

Our efforts to encourage new members and re-balance the demographics of the club by offering a reduced provisional membership fee have been moderately successful and a

proposal to formalise those arrangements is an agenda item. Our next challenge of course is to ensure that we all help those new members not only become competent and confident cavers, but also to become full, integrated and contributing members of the club. SWCC can be quite an intimidating environment to some.

The revised communications strategy has proved sustainable. We now have a hard copy Newsletter which is produced twice a year. This is focussed on recording achievements or sharing technical information. The club diary, forthcoming meets and other more immediate information is now only transmitted electronically.

The working week achieved remarkable success with the overhaul of Gents washroom. The floor joists did indeed prove to be substantially rotten and were replaced together with some of the ceiling joists. The new layout includes an additional joint 'facility', primarily for the convenience of those ladies who sleep in the front on Nos. 9 and 10. Mindful that the operational costs of running the HQ are dominated by energy costs we have reinstated the inner door to the showers. Other small schemes to further reduce our energy consumption are planned for working week 2014. The ever present roof has withstood yet another very wet winter but remains a cause for concern.

The issue of governance and the status of the club, which was raised last year, have continued to be much on the Committee's mind and the promised report from the Governance sub-committee is an agenda item.

Also following on from last year's report is the change of solicitors to Field Seymour Parkes. This has been successfully completed and an effective working relationship established. The proper registration of all of our land and property, including rights of way, is now in hand. Earlier in the year we started a useful dialogue with Hobbs Quarrys although this now seems to have stalled again pending a response from Mr Hobbs. Members may also be aware that our tenant, Mr Evans, died earlier this year and we have therefore had to re-initiate the process to recover our land.

Finally it has been a great pleasure, and indeed a privilege, to have been an SWCC committee member for a number of years and chairman for the past 3 years. But regular refreshment of the Chairmanship, and indeed all committee posts, is desirable to prevent stagnation. On the 'advice' of Mrs Meredith I shall therefore not be standing for the position of Chairman or a committee post again this year.

Thank you.

3. Minutes of the 4th May 2013 AGM

14/A3a. The Chairman invited the proposal that the minutes of the 2013 AGM might be taken as read. Proposed by A. Richardson and Seconded by B Jopling

Majority For, 0 Against, 2 Abstentions – Carried

14/A3b. The Chairman then invited the proposal that the minutes be signed as an accurate record with any identified corrections inserted. Proposed by G. Vaughan and Seconded by H. Meredith.

Majority For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention - Carried

14/A3c. Corrections to the 2013 Minutes:

There were no corrections.

4. Matters arising from the 2013 AGM Minutes

There were no matters arising from the 2013 minutes.

5. Auditor's Report to the 2014 AGM

14/A5. The chairman asked for a proposer for the suggested motion.....

That the Auditor's report be accepted and the Club's thanks be recorded for her work during 2012/13. Proposed by G. Vaughan, seconded by P. Hobson.

Majority For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention - Carried

There were no matters arising from the 2014 Auditor's Report.

6. Officers' Reports to the 2014 AGM

14/A6a. The Chairman invited the proposal that the reports be taken as read. Proposed by P. Meredith and Seconded by G. Vaughan.

Majority For, 0 Against, 2 Abstentions - Carried

14/A6b. The Chairman then invited the proposal to accept the Officers' Reports *en bloc*. Proposed by A. Dobson and Seconded by K. Goodhead.

Majority For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions - Carried

14/A6c. Questions to Officers

The Chairman then invited questions to each officer's report.

14/A6d. Secretary: G. Vaughan drew the meeting's attention to his supplemental report. In his opinion one of the largest problems facing the club was stagnation. The current practice of club officer holding posts for a great number of years was not helpful. G. Vaughan proposed that next year's committee be instructed to look into the problem of committee officer stagnation and try to find a solution. Seconded A. Baker.

Majority For, 1 Against, 4 Abstentions - Carried

14/A6e. Treasurer: C. Friend enquired about gas. Are we using less? A. Freem advised that the new changing room door had helped to keep heat in. He also pointed out that the winter 2013-2014 had been very mild. The club was also with a new supplier who supplied gas at a most competitive rate. There had been transfer costs incurred.

C. Friend enquired as to why there had not been a payment made to Penwllt Water Users Association in the current year. A. Freem replied that no bill had been received.

14/A6f. Editor: A. Richardson reported that other clubs had made positive comments about the production quality of the clubs last production. A. Freem questioned whether the wording required such a generous spacing as costs could potentially be reduced.

14/A6g. Communications / Webmaster: P. Collings-Wells invited more feedback please from the membership as to what they would like to see from the club's future website. L. Williams suggested that it was time the club moved towards methods for electronic payment of subs and hut fees. She proposed that The committee be instructed to look into electronic forms of payment for subscriptions and hut fees. Seconded Dare Talvite.

Majority For, 0 Against, 6 Abstentions – Carried

L. Williams stressed that her proposal was based upon the presumption that the burden of ensuring payment fell to the member and not the committee.

14/A6h. Assistant Secretary:

P. Collings-Wells asked how many personal member e-mail address were not known to the Assistant Secretary. L. Davies replied not many.

A. Baker suggested that the current process for becoming a full member was not at all onerous but he accepted that it may be time for a change. C. Michelle advised that the other caving club of which she was a member did not require written comment or endorsement by members but simply recorded that the applicant had attended four club meets. A. Baker suggested that.....Next year's committee be instructed to consider a constitutional amendment to improve the current system. Seconded B. Jopling. B. Radcliffe was keen to stress that the mechanism to reject an applicant must be retained. B. Jopling suggested that a proposed member should be posted on the website. There were no formal proposals to modify the motion and a vote was taken on A. Baker's original wording.

Majority For, 1 Against, 2 Abstentions – Carried

14/A6j. Conservation Officer: A. Baker expressed concern over the decision at paragraph 4 of the Conservation Officer's report to install a fixed aid. As he understood it this had been at odds to the club's expressed view and it looked as if the club's opinion on the matter was being ignored. B. Woodley stated that he didn't think the club's advice had been ignored. B. Clipstone stated that he thought the club's advice was that a fixed ladder was the best way to go. G. Vaughan advised that this was not correct. The club's advice was very clear and a substantial letter had been written to the OFD Management Committee reporting the vote held at the January committee meeting which had concluded that signage and marking tape was advised. The committee had discussed the value of educating cavers as to the problem. A. Baker stated that the view of the Secretary had confirmed his understanding and asked again how the circumstance had come about. B. Woodley confirmed that the OFD Management Committee had

discussed the issue and had made a decision on the matter. C. Friend stated that this was not his recollection. He recalled that it had been agreed to send a working party out to look at the problem. A. Baker stated that this pointed to a wider point. Historically decisions about fixed aids had involved SWCC. B. Woodley stated that the ladder in question was not a fixed aid, it was to be a conservation aid more like a gate to the Columns and therefore fell outside the usual remit. P. Francis expressed concern as the decision concerned the installation of a fixed ladder that somebody could fall off and as such the club should have been fully consulted. B. Jopling stated that it was still a ladder and somebody could fall off of a ladder. He suggested that this appeared to be the case of the OFD Management Committee dictating policy to SWCC and in his view that was wrong. F. Levett stated that when SWCC had debated fixed aids in the past the process had been transparent and democratic. When SWCC had offered its advice in the past to CCW the advice had been compelling because of the process. A. Baker stated that it would be down to SWCC to install and maintain this new fixed aid and trying to label it as a 'Conservation' aid was splitting hairs. Fixed aids already existed throughout the cave for a number of reasons not least of which was conservation. He pointed out that the club assumed liability for such aids. He stated that the club had appeared to have relinquished its decision making process on fixed aids. A. Baker was concerned that what had been said or agreed in SWCC committee had in some way been ignored or diverted. B. Woodley stated that guidance was needed as to the correct procedure. A. Baker proposed that.... Next year's committee be instructed to look into the relationship between the club's committee and the OFD Management Committee and the process by which people are appointed to the Cave Management Committee. Seconded F. Levett. G. Vaughan stated that he had tried to track down a copy of the constitution of the OFDMC but he had been unable to do so. He went on to say that the purchase of OFD by the club should have very much elevated the club's status with regards the OFDMC and this had not appeared to have happened. C. Friend pointed out that historically the owner of Y Grithig was an honorary warden. He suggested that the club should be entitled to a landowner's seat on the OFD Management Committee. P. Collings Wells asked if the cave is a SSSI then could NRW dictate policy throughout the whole cave. G. Vaughan pointed out that NRW are the policing authority when it came to enforcement of regulation with respect to SSSI. This was different to the role of the OFDMC which was responsible for the day to day administration of the cave. The landowner in each case, SWCC at the bottom of the hill and NRW themselves at the top of the hill are the notified owners, the ones upon whom criminal prosecution would take effect if the SSSI was abused. J. Rowland stated that it was important to remember that the OFDMC was set up in relation to that part of the cave within the reserve and that as he understood it that was still the situation. Once outside of the reserve NRW's interests were limited to that of policing the SSSI. There were no formal proposals to modify the motion and a vote was taken on A. Baker's original wording.

Majority For, 0 Against, 7 Abstentions – Carried

14/A6k. Training Officer: A. Freem stated that more could be done with the position next year. The party Quarry had been developed for use in training. The club had run three conservation lectures for visitors and students.

He would like to see more conservation lectures and more underground conservation events. P. Collings Wells advocated more formal advance notification of training related activities and events. C. Friend asked if the new 'P' hangers were fixed aids maintained by the club. A. Freem advised that as they were installed by V. Alkins under the BCA's scheme the liability for the 'P' hangers rested with BCA. C. Friend asked if we're looking at a completely new class of fixed aid, one which enabled people to use the cave.

14/A6m. Rescue Liaison Officer: V. Alkins stated that it had been a quite year for rescue. A lightning strike had disrupted the alarm. The team had purchased a new Landover. There still existed a special relationship between the team and SWCC. B. Jopling was standing down after many years of service. The meeting recognised this achievement with a round of applause.

G. Vaughan asked if there had been an upsurge in incidents in OFD 1 since the leadership system was made redundant. V. Alkins reported that yes there had been an upsurge in incidents. B. Jopling reported that the accidents associated with OFD 1 were on the periphery. It was reported that there had been a small number of incidents but these mostly related to parties becoming lost in OFD 1.5. In his opinion it made no difference at all. G. Vaughan asked for clarification that these incidents had not been caused by a lack of understanding of the escape route or being caught by flood pulses. It was confirmed that they were not.

7. Review of the club's Legal Status

14/A7. The Chairman opened the debate by pointing out that a sub - committee had worked hard over the past year to look into the matter and were in effect asking the AGM for permission to spend money obtaining proper legal advice. Currently expenditure on this matter totalled £70.

B. Jopling asked if there was any surety that the advice received was going to be definitive as in his experience advice on the law varied from barrister to barrister. F. Levett advised that the last time the club looked into this matter was 1996. At that time the club concluded that it did not need to change. The current study is complicated. The current issue was the taking of 'risk' by certain key members of the club. He suggested that if risk is recognised as an issue then it needed proper management. An example could be the creation of an incorporated body with limited liability to manage certain parts of the club's running such as the hostel. A. Baker advised the AGM that his wife's law firm were the current club solicitors but irrespective of that fact he was confident that the club would receive the very best legal advice on the matter. B. Jopling was not convinced. He still believed advice varied depending on who you spoke to. J. Rowland pointed out that some of the advice needed was factual as opposed

to opinion. B. Jopling urged the club to seriously look into Charity status. A. Baker was concerned that Charity status might require the intervention of the charity commission every time a constitutional amendment was made. J. Lister stated that in his view Charity status would provide no greater protection. J. Levett stated that the RNLI was configured into many different branches with each assuming risk independently of the others.

F. Levett advised that so far the issue was incorporated verses un-incorporated. If the advice was to become incorporated then the type of incorporated body would be the next decision to be made. B. Clipstone stated that Charities were much more tax efficient. G. Vaughan pointed out that Charities enjoyed better rates with organisations like Pay-pal. J Rowland asked if Wealden were a charity. G. Christian confirmed that Wealden were a charity and that it had little effect on the day to day running of the club. L. Williams suggested that a charity would not be allowed to accumulate money. B. Clipstone did not agree. He stated there was no problem with handling or holding money. B. Jopling stated that a Ltd. Company can do a good many things without reference to its shareholders. He stated that a good number of members to whom he had spoken were distinctly nervous about that aspect. This could be a concern to the club. P. Hobson stated that when he had been in New Zealand there had been problems with clubs losing control of their assets to a small number of directors. J. Lister pointed out that if the club became a Ltd company it would almost certainly loose its rate relief status. E Flaherty advised that a Community Interest Company is one of the forms of incorporated organisations that bridge the gap between limited companies and charities.

C. Michelle urged that the club was about to spend a lot of money and that the club needed to move faster. She asked when the club was going to get around to making a decision on the question of status and pointed out that we would never be in a position of having 100% of the advice that was needed. B. Jopling asked what had happened to make the club so uneasy about its position. A. Freem advised that whilst claims against clubs were rare they do from time to time occur and cited the M5 bonfire incident and the North Wales goal post collapse as examples. P. Collings Wells stated that individuals do things every day that could raise personal liability. He took the view that if the club acted with reasonable care and diligence the officers were at no elevated risk than normal everyday life.

The chairman moved the meeting to a vote.

Voting on motion 5.1... The AGM notes and supports the continuing, and possible improvement to, insurance for all members and officers and the active management of risk.

Majority For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions – Carried

Voting on motion 5.2 a)..... The AGM authorises the Committee to obtain legal advice concerning the true nature of the liability facing members, Committee members and trustees in confirmation of the report of the Sub-Committee.

Majority For, 0 Against, 5 Abstentions – Carried

Voting on motion 5.2 b)..... The AGM authorises the Committee to obtain legal advice concerning all options to reduce the exposure and risk to assets, members and officers, including advantages and disadvantage of each option. These options to particularly include the potential for a legal entity to sit within the club to operate aspects of the club. This advice to be reported to, and considered by, a future General Meeting.

Majority For, 0 Against, 6 Abstentions – Carried

B. Jopling proposed a cap to expenditure of £2000. Seconded by F. Levett.

5 For, Majority Against, 11 Abstentions – Defeated

K. Goodhead proposed a cap to expenditure of £5000. Seconded by A. Richardson.

19 For, 10 Against, 22 Abstentions – Carried

A. Baker proposed a show of thanks for the hard work of all those involved in the work completed to date. This was met with generous applause.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL AMMENDMENT -ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

14/A8. The Chairman outlined the reason for the amendment. It was proposed to put a safety net in place in the event that the membership failed to make a nomination by the due date. J. Rowland pointed out that the club is not compelled to have a president. C. Friend endorsed the view offered. The Chairman moved the matter to a vote.

12 For, 32 Against, 12 Abstentions – Defeated

9. CONSTITUTIONAL AMMENDMENT - SUBSCRIPTIONS AND INCENTIVES

14/A8. L. Williams asked how much money the club would gain if it abandoned Joint Membership altogether. A. Baker pointed out that if the discount was scrapped members may be lost. L. Williams asked how many joint members there are listed? L. Davies advised that there were around 40 couples which made it around 80 members. M. Day pointed out that this was an increase in fees to receive less in return. I. Miller suggested that the rate should be de-coupled from the constitution. J. Lister pointed out that if we were to lose a small number of members we would end up with less income.

I. Miller proposed that all subscription rates are to be determined by the AGM. Seconded K. Goodhead.

Majority For, 0 Against, 6 Abstentions – Carried

It was noted that this vote had resolved not only the 175% debate but also the under 25 debate. C. Friend stated that it was important that members paid their subs. B. Radcliffe stated that if the payment date was moved things would be much simpler for the Treasurer and Ass. Secretary. This was endorsed by A. Freem. He went on to say that the current system of deciding rates at an AGM and then having members trying to pay money within hours of the decision was very difficult. Having a degree of separation would be very helpful. L. Davies confirmed the process of paying BCA insurance. D. Edwards pointed out that if we moved payment due to 1st September we would have three missing months. The Chairman moved the meeting to a vote on the suggested proposal.... ‘Annual Subscriptions shall be payable on the 1st Sept. The AGM may elect to implement an early subscription fee payment incentive scheme for the following year which shall apply for a period of 30 days after the day when the Subscriptions are payable. Any member who is more than two months in arrears of payment shall be deemed to have let their membership lapse.’

Majority For, 1 Against, 7 Abstentions – Carried

The debate then focused on the wording of section C. It was suggested that the first sentence of section C be dropped as this matter had already been dealt with. It was further suggested that section C and D be run together. G. Vaughan pointed out that starting half way through section C made the wording un-intelligible. J. Lister stated that he was a little concerned about the implication of the second sentence in C. It appeared to imply that once a Provisional member had paid his subscription he didn't have to pay again until the following September. P. Hallihan pointed out the provision made in section D.

G Vaughan pointed out that section 5a dealt with the matter of annual subscriptions whilst 5c and 5d dealt with the matter of Provisional Membership which was not necessarily an annual membership.

Upon realising that the matter was becoming over complicated the Chairman suggested that the constitutional amendments relating to Provisional Membership were best left to next year's committee to consider and bring to the 2015 AGM if they so wished.

10. ROLES OF ESTATE MANAGER AND HUT WARDEN

14/A10 F. Levett asked if the version included in the notes was current as the Hut warden appeared to be tasked with duties to look after dogs. The Chairman confirmed that the line with respect to dogs would be struck out. F. Levett confirmed that he may wish to vote against striking the line out. B. Radcliffe felt that the committee should be charged with responsibility for ensuring insurances were paid. A. Freem advised that the job of arranging insurance had simply got too involved and too complex for the

Treasurer to deal with and thus it was felt that the role of Estate Manager would ease that burden. C. Friend pointed out that at the end of the day it was the Treasurer who signed the cheque. B. Jopling asked if the insurance in question was property or member liability. G. Vaughan confirmed that the Estate Manager dealt with matters of insurance to do with the estate i.e. property and that the Assistant Sec. dealt with BCA insurance for members third party caving liability. P. Meredith proposed a formal vote by the AGM to accept the roles as set out in the guidance notes with amendments below.....

The SWCC Estates Manager is responsible to the committee for:

Ensuring that the club estate and facilities meet statutory requirements especially, but not limited to, gas, electric, fire water and sewage. All paperwork and certificates to be current.

Point of contact with all external providers.

Arranging for the club to be properly and adequately insured in respect of third party liabilities.

Ensuring that any Working Weeks are adequately planned, budgeted, co-ordinated and organised.

Maintaining records of works done and services plans.

Development and maintenance of SWCC Estates O&M Manual. This to include maintenance and operating schedules, land and boundary plans, services plans and records of task done.

Annual physical review of boundaries, records of the review and actions arising

Ensuring grounds maintenance contract is in place

The SWCC Cottage Warden is responsible to the committee for:

Ensuring that work required on the cottages throughout the year is carried out

Ensuring consumable supplies are available

Sewage system maintenance including cess pit emptying

Ensuring that annual fire safety assessments including alarm tests and drills are carried out and any work arising is carried out.

Water system maintenance

Input to, and assistance with, Working Week planning and delivery

Ensuring cottage cleaning rota, rubbish collection including bottles, and tea towels are in place.

Majority For, 0 Against, 5 Abstentions – Carried

11. SUBSCRIPTIONS

14/A11 A. Freem reported that we are breaking even but we are not building reserves. C. Friend pointed out that inflation is still occurring. P. Meredith pointed out that inflation is heavily slanted towards fuel costs. K. Goodhead reminded the AGM that last year's AGM had indicated that it would like to step the fees every other year. There was debate about making up the missing months. A. Dobson pointed out that it was in fact four months, May, June July and August. B. Jopling asked if the club had managed to keep to a more frugal spending regime over the past year. A Freem confirmed that it had. A. Freem proposed that subs stay the same as last year. Seconded K. Goodhead.

Majority For, 1 Against, 1 Abstentions – Carried

A. Freem proposed that hut fees stay the same as last year. Seconded V. Allkins

Majority For, 2 Against, 1 Abstentions – Carried

There then followed debate as to the missing four months. The Chairman took a general show of hands as to whether there was momentum to pay the club for the additional four months. The indication was affirmative. A. Dobson raised the question of BCA insurance and whether members would be required to pay two BCA insurance subscriptions. P. Meredith confirmed that a member would pay one BCA insurance subscription and one annual membership subscription possibly amended to represent the additional four months.

K. Goodhead proposed that because of the additional four months until subs due that the amount of all annual subscriptions be multiplied by 130% rounded up to the nearest whole pound. Seconded P. Francis.

Majority For, 1 Against, 4 Abstentions – Carried

There was then discussion as to whether it was necessary to set rates for Joint Members, provisional members and young members. F. Levett pointed out that a vote had already been taken to keep subscriptions the same as last year and thus in effect the respective rates were already set and simply needed multiplying by 130%.

L. Davies then asked about BCA insurance which was due in January but had been collected from the membership retrospectively in May of each year. She assumed that she would be collecting money that weekend. If the BCA subs were to be collected in September that would be to cover the Insurance collected next January and not the insurance paid last January. S. Goodhead confirmed that members had yet to pay for the BCA insurance that had been covered by the club last January. It was the plan that the BCA subs collected in September of this year would be used to pay the BCA insurance of January next year. A. Dobson confirmed that historically the club had paid out the BCA insurance before it had collected it from the membership. P. Francis stated that whole reason for moving the payment to September was to get the money in the bank. Now there would be a longer time for people to drop out of the club and we could potentially lose the insurance money that we are owed. He urged that L. Davies should go to all members now and ask for the BCA money for next January now. P. Meredith confirmed that there was work to do now in that respect and L. Davies confirmed that this is what she was expecting. A. Freem stated that he could not understand the discussion. He did not believe that the membership owed the club for BCA insurance already paid. A. Dobson made the point however that in order for A. Freem to be correct, the club would have had to collect BCA insurance the May before the scheme came into existence. A Freem confirmed that the issue goes way back. A Freem agreed that the club needed to look at the first year. A Baker re-iterated P Francis' point about the current year however. The club needed to collect BCA subs before people left the club. J. Lister proposed two alternatives. Either we all pay two BCA subs, one now and one in September or the club takes a hit on one year's subs. G. Vaughan pointed out that the constitution prevented the club from paying the BCA Insurance subscription on the part of individual members as this amounted to a division of the clubs assets. A. Baker pointed out that collecting BCA subs twice in one year was an onerous proposition. K. Goodhead advocated one payment now for four months subs and a BCA contribution and a further payment in September. There was no formal proposal as to how last January's BCA insurance would be recovered from the membership and the matter was left for the incoming committee to resolve.

12. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

14/A12.1 President.

The secretary had received a nomination for Jem Rowland proposed by F. Levett, C. Friend, C. Vivian, A. Baker, A. Freem and P. Dennis.

Unanimous For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions – Elected

14/A12.2. Vice Presidents

The following were proposed:

The 3 Trustees were proposed and seconded *en bloc*.

John Lister

Alison Maddocks

Clark Friend

Proposed: A. Dobson

Seconded: B. Clipstone

Majority For, 0 Against, 1 Abstentions – Elected

Les Hawes

Proposed: J. Lister

Seconded: C. Friend

Majority For, 0 Against, 1 Abstentions – Elected

M. Day

Proposed: D. Edwards

Seconded: S. West

Majority For, 0 Against, 1 Abstentions – Elected

F. Levett

Proposed: J. Rowland

Seconded: P. Francis

Majority For, 0 Against, 1 Abstentions – Elected

14/A12.3. Chairman

Proposed: P. Collings Wells

Pete Hobson

Seconded: L. Davis

Elected

14/A12.4. Secretary

Proposed: K. Goodhead

Eleanor Flaherty

Seconded: A. Dobson

Elected

14/A12.5. Treasurer

Proposed: G. Christian

H. Lomas

Seconded: P. Francis

Elected

14/A12.6. Warden

Proposed: A. Freem

Brian Clipstone

Seconded: S. Amatt

Elected

14/A12.7. Conservation Officer

Proposed: A. Freem

Bernie Woodley

Seconded: V. Allkins

Elected

Proposed: A. Baker

Gary Vaughan

Seconded: P. Francis

14/A12.8. Training Officer

Proposed: K. Goodhead

Andy Freem

Seconded: A. Richardson

Elected

14/A12.9. Records Officer **Allan Richardson**
Proposed: C. Pepper Seconded: V. Allkins
Elected

14/A12.10. Equipment Officer **Piers Hallihan**
Proposed: L. Davis Seconded: A. Davis
Elected

14/A12.11. Editor **Krysia Groves**
Proposed: A. Richardson Seconded: P. Hobson
Elected

14/A12.12. Cave Rescue Liaison Officer **V. Allkins**
Proposed: B. Clipstone Seconded: A. Freem
Elected

14/A12.13. The Chairman then asked for nominations for Four Ordinary Members. Following the proposal four candidates were proposed:

L. Davies
(Proposed: A. Maddocks Seconded: K. Goodhead) **Elected**

P. Collings Wells
(Proposed: B. Jopling Seconded: F. Levett) **Elected**

D. Dobson
(Proposed: K. Goodhead Seconded: D. Edwards) **Elected**

Antonia Freem
(Proposed: P. Meredith Seconded: J. Lister) **Elected**

13. Appointment of Auditor

14/A13. Janine Graham was proposed as Auditor by P. Meredith and Seconded by K. Goodhead

Majority For; 0 Against; 1 Abstentions – Carried

14. Status of Trustees

14/A14. J. Lister addressed the meeting. He set out to the meeting that the Trustees were looking for guidance from the meeting as to how they would be expected to step down. L. Williams asked what the Trustees do. J. Lister explained that the Trustees hold the ownership of the club's property on trust as the club is not a legal entity. The committee is responsible for the day to day running of the club. B. Jopling suggested that Trustees should hold a fixed term of five years. J. Rowland advocated that Trustees needed to hold office for long periods of time as the process of changing Trustees was

expensive. He advocated an upper age limit. J. Levett stated that in her view Trustees should be seen to attend the AGM. B. Jopling asked if we would have problem if all the Trustees resigned at once. J. Rowland pointed out that the detail of Trustee appointment and removal need not be in the constitution. A. Richardson proposed that Trustees have an upper age limit of 70 with yearly appointment or removal by the AGM. Seconded by J. Rowland.

Majority For; 0 Against; 5 Abstentions – Carried

15. BCA Adopt a Club

14/A15. P. Meredith introduced the item. G. Vaughan set out the background to the matter. C. Friend stated that in the past SWCC had held links with other University clubs and asked why we did not have links with Welsh University clubs. B. Jopling asked what sponsorship of a club meant. His attention was drawn to the agreement printed on the rear cover of the guidance notes. G. Vaughan read the terms in full to the meeting.

PVM moved the matter to a vote along the lines of that set out in the guidance notes namely thatthis AGM endorses the Committee’s decision to embrace the Adopt a Club Scheme and that the AGM votes in favour of adopting SUCC for the period 3rd May 2014 to 1st May 2015 under the terms and conditions set out in the certificate attached to the guidance notes.

Majority For; 0 Against; 5 Abstentions – Carried

16. Policy Document

14/A16. P. Meredith advised the AGM that a planned revision to the policy document was very much work in progress at the current point in time therefore the factual policy document remained unaltered from last year’s AGM. He asked for a formal vote to ratify last year’s Policy Document.

Majority For; 0 Against; 1 Abstentions – Carried

17. Any Other Business

14/A17.1. Estates Officer

B. Jopling proposed that the Estates Manager should be an elected officer of the club. Seconded V. Allkins.

22 For; 6 Against; 13 Abstentions – Carried

G. Vaughan advised that this would require a constitutional amendment which could not be effected this year as it had not been notified in advance. B. Jopling suggested that

the position be co-opted for the current year and that next year's committee produce a suitably worded amendment for next year's AGM.

14/A17.2. Apology

D. Edwards apologised for entering the meeting during the minutes silence.

14/A17.3. Wooden Bunks in No. 8

P. Francis stated that he recalled a minute of a previous AGM which prevented the construction of further wooden bunks. PVM clarified that he had specifically checked the decision and that it specifically related to bunks in No. 9.

14/A17.4. CHECC 2014

B. Jopling asked why the club had refused a request from CHECC to hold the annual event at SWCC. P. Meredith advised that the approach had been clumsy and had in effect asked SWCC to compete for the 'honour' of hosting CHECC. B. Jopling stated that he would hate to think that the club was harbouring anti CHECC feelings and he was assured by members of the outgoing committee that this was absolutely not the case.

14/A17.5. Mary Hazelton's Dragon

C. Pepper asked as to the whereabouts of the Dragon. It was confirmed that the dragon was safe and sound in its new lair deep within the club archives.

14/A17.6. Outgoing Committee

J. Rowland proposed a vote of thanks to outgoing committee members. There was a round of applause to the suggestion.

14/A17.6. Publications

It was recorded that after several years of assisting with Publications Annie Hallihan was stepping down and Jo White was stepping into the role.

14. Time and Venue for 2015 AGM

14/A18. J. Rowland suggested that it may be time to revert to the original time slot for the AGM of 3.00pm. T. Baker Proposed that.....The 2015 AGM will be held at 9.00 a.m on Saturday the 2nd May at a venue to be advised (suggested to be at the Miners' Welfare, Abercraf). The Committee would confirm the venue at a later date. Seconded by B Radcliffe .

27 For; 14 Against; 7 Abstentions – Carried

14/A19. There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Gary Vaughan, 19/05/2014