

# **SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB**

## **CLWB OGOFEYDD DEHEUDIR CYMRU**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Miners' Welfare Hall, Abercraf at 9.00 a.m. on Saturday the 2nd May 2015.

### **1. Apologies for absence**

**15/A1.** David Mullin, Andrew Ward, Christiane Michel, Bill Buxton, Idris & Dot Williams, Lel Davies, Krysia Groves, Nick Davies, Judy Day, Claire Vivian, Gary Evans, Steffan Davies, Jen Hill, Fred & Jackie Levett, James Meredith, Hayley Meredith, Les Cardy, Pat Hall, Annie Hallihan.

There were 53 voting Members signed in – see archived sheets.

The Chairman concluded the apologies for absence by asking for a minute's silence to reflect on those members who have passed away during this last year most notably Dave Edwards, Heather Eteen, Vicky Inson and Ken Maddocks.

The meeting observed one minute of silence.

### **2. The Chairman's welcome and comments on 2014/2015**

**15/A2.** The Chairman thanked everyone and welcomed those present and went on to say.....[obtain electronic copy from Pete Hobson](#)

### **3. Minutes of the 3rd May 2014 AGM**

**15/A3a.** The Chairman invited the proposal that the minutes of the 2014 AGM might be taken as read.

Proposed by A. Richardson

Seconded by B Jopling

**Majority in favour    0 Against    1 Abstention                      Carried**

**15/A3b.** The Chairman then invited the proposal that the minutes, subject to any corrections, be signed as an accurate record.

Proposed by T. Baker

Seconded by P. Hallihan

**Majority in favour    0 Against    3 Abstentions                      Carried**

There were no corrections offered for the 2014 AGM minutes.

### **4. Matters arising from the 2014 AGM Minutes**

**15/A4a.** ref. 14/A6j Tony Baker requested an update on the situation with regards to the relationship between SWCC Committee and OFDMC and the process by which people are appointed to the OFDMC. Jem Rowland responded to this saying that he had led the subcommittee that had looked at this and the terms of reference of the OFDMC. Members were Jem Rowland, Fred Levett, Allan Richardson, Gary Vaughan, Bernie Woodley from SWCC and Richard Preece from NRW.

The fact that the Management Committee is an intermediary advisory body between SWCC and NRW for all Cave access and Karst features that lie within the OFD SSSI was reasserted. It is where the views of both groups meet. Election to Committee: Chair is appointed by NRW, Secretary and Permit Sec. are SWCC people appointed immediately after the SWCC AGM by the SWCC Committee which informs the chair of OFDMC of their selection in writing by the Summer meeting. They should have

sufficient knowledge to fulfil their roles. All of the above should be available on the Club website.

**15/A4b.** ref. minute 14/A7 T. Baker requested an update on the Legal Status of the Club. J. Rowland said that there was a report about this at the end of the AGM booklet and it was also an item on the Agenda.

## **5. Officers' Reports to the 2014 AGM**

**15/A5.** The Chairman invited the proposal that the reports be taken as read.  
Proposed by K. Goodhead  
Seconded by C. Pepper

**All in Favour**

**Carried**

### **Questions to Officers**

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

#### **15/A5a. Secretary**

The Secretary encouraged the appointment of a "Minutes Secretary" to ease the tasks incumbent on the Secretary; this could provide a chance for a younger member to see the workings of the Committee without the need for being appointed to a post of responsibility.

#### **15/A5b. Treasurer**

The Treasurer thanked C. Grimmett for all his help in producing the accounts. A. Dobson asked about the money collected for BCA – should be shown as 2 lots but could only see 1. J. Lister explained where to find the answer on the balance sheet. Janine Graham (Auditor) had advised that the money should be shown this way because the BCA money isn't ours but it is held in trust to be paid to them at the appropriate time. I. Miller pointed out that no system would be 100% but it had now improved. SWCC would still be charging its members the BCA money in advance but this meant that if the cost increased this extra amount would have to be buffered by the Club.

#### **15/A5c. Editor**

#### **15/A5d. Records Officer**

B. Jopling said that he appreciated having the newsletters digitised and would like the opportunity to read the rest. G. Amabalino had done this in the past but B. Clipstone has completed most of them now and they would hopefully be put up on the website shortly.

#### **15/A5e. Equipment Officer – no questions.**

#### **15/A5f. Cave Rescue Liaison – no questions.**

#### **15/A5g. Warden**

G. Vaughan asked why the door connecting No. 6 corridor to the lobby had been changed since the porch was now draught proof. A. Richardson stated that it kept the building warmer if a window was open upstairs. B. Jopling stated that as it's a thoroughfare the door was a nuisance and G. Vaughan agreed. There was an electro-magnetic lock installed at great time and expense to keep the door open but so that it would still act as a fire door; this was now redundant.

**Motion:-**

That the internal door with the electro-magnetic lock be restored.

Proposed by G. Vaughan

Seconded by B. Jopling

**For 15**

**11 Against**

**16 Abstentions**

**Carried**

K. Goodhead stated that the reason for so many abstentions was that it hadn't been discussed and there had been no offer of any alternative measure. S. Moore was of the opinion that it wasn't AGM business anyway.

**15/A5g. Conservation** - No questions.

**15/A5i. Training** - No questions.

**15/A5j. Fixed Aids**

G. Vaughan asked about the new fixed aid. D. Dobson stated that it wasn't a fixed aid as it wasn't on his list. G. Vaughan suggested that it is a retrograde step that fixed aids are appearing in the cave especially as they are a controversial subject. He suggested that the Fixed Aids Working Party which used to exist should be reconvened and report to the AGM each year for openness and transparency.

T. Baker expressed his agreement. There was further discussion about who was responsible for aids that weren't official such as the Waterfall Series Traverse line. S. Moore suggested that the Working party thoroughly review all fixed aids since times and attitudes have changed. J. Rowland reminded the meeting that up until now the SSSI approval process had not been used but there should be a line drawn now and future aids may need to consider this process. SWCC would come up with recommendations and CMC would act accordingly. P.Quill asked about the result of an illegal placement of a fixed aid and was told that the person installing such could be prosecuted by NRW.

**Motion:-**

That the Fixed Aids Working Party be reconvened to consider all fixed aids in OFD. This Working Party would be convened by the incoming Fixed Aids Officer.

Proposed G. Vaughan

Seconded T. Baker

**Majority in favour**

**2 Against**

**8 Abstentions**

**Carried**

**15/A5k Communications Officer** – No Questions

**15/A5l Assistant Secretary** - No questions

**15/A5m Estate Manager**

A. Maddocks asked if there was any way that the money could be recouped for the repair of fencing that should have completed by the tenant. C. Friend said that the track record of the current tenant was not good and in his opinion if the tenant had wished to continue with grazing on our land he would have made an effort to complete tasks which were his responsibility. He would like to see a complete break with this family and look for an alternative grazier. H. Dare pointed out that if the tenant has put this land into his Tir Gofal agreement then it is his problem to sort out. B. Clipstone said that Colin Williams had already indicated that he would like to graze sheep on our land. G. Vaughan explained that the Evans family felt that they had a tenancy agreement over the land long before SWCC owned it. They felt that they had historical rights. B. Jopling felt that he had good relations with them.

C. Friend pointed out that the Evans family had applied for Tir Gofal money without a written tenancy agreement, they had never been able to produce one when asked.

A. Maddocks asked about the rights of commoners where the whole group had to sign up on any agreement about how land was managed ecologically but it was pointed out that in this valley it was the responsibility of individuals rather than a group. H. Dare informed the meeting that there will be a new basic payment scheme introduced for May 2015 – 16 and any claim without a tenancy agreement would be fraudulent. G. Vaughan suggested that the Club takes possession of the land from 1st Jan. 2016 and the decision will be taken by the Committee as to how the Club will proceed from then on; would they re-negotiate with the Evans family or seek a new grazier? P. Hallihan wanted the term grazier used rather than tenant.

J. Lister pointed out that the Club cannot manage the land on its own; we have a duty to manage the land as it was subject to an agreement with NRW who had given us a grant towards purchasing it.

J. Rowland suggested that the expertise of those in the meeting could be used to help in the decision making.

B. Jopling said there should be serious consideration given to selling some of the land that we don't want. C. Friend didn't accept that there was land that we didn't need as it could mean that someone would then try to dig into the cave.

### **Motion**

The Committee is instructed to pursue the most advantageous agreement for the use and management of the land. If the options include the sale of part of the land then that decision must be ratified by a General Meeting.

Proposed S. Moore

Seconded J. Lister

**Majority in favour      0 Against      4 Abstentions      Carried**

B. Radcliffe asked that a mechanism was put in place for any agreement to be monitored.

G. Vaughan asked how the waste disposal and recycling changes came about. C. Grimmett replied that Powys County Council consider us to be a trade customer and a legally binding document has been signed to say that we will recycle as much as possible. Green bin will be emptied fortnightly so the cost is reduced by half. Since the lorry will not cross the quarry a new bin with key will be provided and will be sited just this side of the gate to the Stump which is our land. A range of available options for recycling was given, most of which are unsuitable for us but new rates just come in for a 250L multiuse bin for paper, plastic & glass (weekly collection). Alternatively the Club could buy an annual trade permit for £45 and take recycling to a domestic site. P. Hallihan pointed out that we can be prosecuted if recyclable waste is in the waste bin. T. Baker observed that since the recycle bins in the kitchen had been removed people were putting glass in the general waste, not taking them home. B. Stevens asked how much it would cost to have recycling collected once a week and C. Grimmett replied that on first look it could be quite reasonable ~ £2.50 per week. G. Vaughan stated that there was often a better rate per kg. weight for recycling due to the fact it was to be encouraged and he was in favour of a more formal recycling arrangement with a proper trade recycling collection.

C. Grimmett said there were multiple options and the next Committee needs to look at this.

**15/A5n.** The Chairman then invited the proposal to accept the Officers' Reports *en bloc*.

Proposed P. Hallihan

Seconded J. Lister

**Majority in favour      0 Against      0 Abstentions      Carried**

## **6. Auditor's Report to the 2015 AGM**

**15/A6.** The chairman asked for a proposer for the suggested motion in the Agenda

### **Motion**

That the auditor's report be accepted and the Club's thanks be recorded for her work during 2014/15.

Proposed B. Jopling

Seconded I. Cardy

**Majority in favour      0 Against      2 Abstentions      Carried**

There were no matters arising from the 2014/15 Auditor's Report.

## **7. Subscriptions and Hut Fees**

**15/A7** The Treasurer said that the current balance of £72 864 was a healthy one. In the past treasurers had raised subscriptions in alternate years but he felt that it shouldn't happen this year. He also felt that hut fees should not be raised as he wanted to increase the numbers of members using the club but guest fees were different; he wanted to see a greater difference between the two sets of fees – possibly raising guest fees to £10?

S. Moore stated that in Scotland £15/£16 was usual for possibly slightly more salubrious facilities than ours but not necessarily. Hostels were even more expensive, so £10 would still be cheap by comparison. J. White added that in her experience guest rates were normally double the members' rate. K. Goodhead pointed out that students constituted a large proportion of our visitors and we should consider their needs. He asked if anyone knew what student rates were elsewhere? Several people said that there were no special student rates in other hostels, they paid the same as others. T. Baker wanted to encourage student visitors and a modest increase in the rate would keep us competitive and allow for inflation. These groups could be put off staying at SWCC by a big price hike.

H. Lomas clarified that he was only talking about guests and was not including the students in this category. He wanted the rates to reflect the benefit of being a member. A. Richardson added that students stay with us because we have the facilities to accommodate large numbers which other clubs do not. K. Goodhead suggested that as students currently have a £1 discount off the guest rate for pre booking, this could be increased to a £2 discount. T. Baker asked what the going rate was elsewhere for similar facilities and H. Lomas replied that it was £12 for Yorkshire Ramblers and A. Richardson added that the Mines weekend in N. Wales would cost £9 pppn.

### **Motion**

The guest rate would be increased to £9 for guests with a £2 discount for pre-booked University Clubs and members' rates would stay the same.

Proposed G. Vaughan

Seconded K. Goodhead

### **Alternative proposal / amendment made:-**

£8 for guests, £7 for pre-booked University Clubs, £4 for members

Proposed I. Miller

Seconded V. Allkins

**In favour 2**

**Defeated**

**Original Motion**  
**Majority in favour**                      **6 Against**                      **7 Abstentions**                      **Carried**

**Motion**

The current subscription rate remains the same for 2015/16.

Proposed T. Baker

Seconded C. Pepper

**Majority in favour**                      **1 Against**                      **3 Abstentions**                      **Carried**

P. Collings –Wells requested that the incoming Committee look at online paying. H. Lomas expressed his hope that in the future there could be the facility to pay hut fees online at Penwyllt. This would be a BACs payment system rather than Pay Pal as the latter incurred a charge. There was further discussion about using a credit card system and whether it would be an appropriate way to move forward. Committee should investigate possibilities and come back with suggestions.

**8. Legal Status**

**15/A8** J. Rowland explained that Fred Levett had taken the lead on this. The aim was to mitigate the risks and the effect of risks which led to a sub-committee looking at a risk register and subsequently maintaining it. A second sub-committee considered whether the insurance cover we had was as fit for purpose as it could be. J. Rowland continued to outline further details in addition to the contents of Appendix 1 at the back of the AGM booklet. It was a complicated issue and looked at whether the Club should be incorporated or unincorporated (this latter was not a legal entity so could not be sued as such). Through the Constitution which permits Club assets to be used and through insurance held, individual members of the Committee could be compensated if they were successfully sued by an individual. If the Club became an incorporated body it would be easier for it to be sued, we would lose the rate relief that we have and it would cost us more to have accounts audited. As the Club is not an entity any contracts that are signed become the responsibility of the person signing. It is suggested that any document to be signed is checked very carefully by at least one other person.

Legal advice had been taken to ensure that the facts with which the group were working were correct and the solicitor put us right on one or two details. Authorised spend was £5,000, actual cost was £350 + VAT. The sub-committee's recommendation was that the status quo should be maintained but that the situation should be monitored in the future.

Charitable status was also looked at; we can become a charity if we exist solely for the public benefit. We exist as a members' club so are not able to become a charity.

J. Rowland concluded by saying that the Committee had accepted the paper and he now requested the AGM to ratify that decision.

**Motion**

The AGM accepts the paper on the Legal Status of the Club and its recommendations.

Proposed J. Rowland

Seconded S. Moore

**Majority in favour**                      **0 Against**                      **3 Abstentions**                      **Carried**

B. Jopling proposed a vote of thanks to the sub-committee who produced the document and with particular thanks to Fred Levett.

## **9. Proposed Constitutional change 1**

**15/A9** (Addition of Estate Manager to Committee elected posts)

Proposed by the Committee

Seconded B. Jopling

**36 For the motion**

**4 Against**

**5 Abstentions**

**Carried**

## **10. Proposed Constitutional change 2**

**15/A10** (Modification of the process to become a full member)

P. Hallihan spoke on this topic with reference to T. Baker's suggestion from last year's AGM. He stated that constitutionally it doesn't need that much change.

- (i) Proposer doesn't need to write a letter – just handing in the signed form would make the system easier.
- (ii) Name and address to be displayed – currently the address is not displayed so this would merely be bringing the Constitution into line with current practice.
- (iii) 6 week display time. If this were to be changed to 4 weeks then an individual would be able to become a full member a month earlier. New prospective full members' names could be displayed on the Website rather than the Lobby wall – but this should not be tied into the Constitution.

Every member application is currently discussed and voted on and the suggestion is to change this practice to a vote only if there is an objection. Abstaining for "not knowing the applicant" would be removed. Meeting Committee members may be difficult if the applicant caves mid-week rather than at weekends.

Constitutional changes would be small, attitude changes would be small but significant.

For next year the rights and entitlements of Provisional members needs to be considered. Student groups can pick up a key to the Club & the cave so why not the Provisional members?

S. Moore agreed with the removal of the address being displayed but there would be no way other than the list for anyone to say that someone is unacceptable. We don't want to lose the ability to reject an application; this could happen if the time for comments was reduced.

T. Baker congratulated Piers on the document and gave it his total support. He also supported the reduction of the 6 weeks to 4 weeks. B. Radcliffe felt that the ability to object, rare though it would be, should be retained.

B. Jopling felt that he would like the requirement for a letter to remain and T. Baker added that this gave the opportunity to pass on positive comments about someone. J. Rowland suggested that this could be part of the Policy Document. P. Francis wanted the 6 week period to remain and R. Breaker felt that if the applicant came into the Committee meeting (with or without cake!) it meant there was at least knowledge of the person wishing to join the Club. P. Quill felt that if you wanted to

become a member you ought to do what it takes – not very onerous. T. Baker suggested that the perception needed to appear less onerous. The discussion continued for a short time and then the following was suggested:-

### **15/A10a Amendment 1 to the Motion**

Additional sentence to be added.

The application form should be accompanied by a letter of support from one or more of the proposers.

Proposed T. Baker

Seconded P. Meredith

**36 In favour                      10 Against                      6 Abstentions                      Carried**

There was then a vote on the length of time that a members' name be displayed.

### **15/A10b Amendment2 to the Motion**

The Members' name be displayed for 6 weeks not 4 weeks

Proposed S. Moore

Seconded B. Radcliffe

**23 In favour                      15 Against                      9 Abstentions                      Carried**

### **15/A10c Motion – this new Constitutional change**

**33 In favour                      7 Against                      6 Abstentions                      Carried**

T. Baker suggested that Piers' document meant the Committee had a way to look at the application system in that acceptance was presumed unless there was an objection received. Club members need to stress to provisional members that the process is not onerous and he proposed a vote of thanks to P. Hallihan for his work.

A request was also made that the Committee look at the rights of provisional members for next year which may require a constitutional change.

### **Motion**

For Committee guidance it is presumed that an applicant is successful in the absence of an objection to that applicant joining as a member.

Proposed P. Hallihan

Seconded T. Baker

**10 In favour                      22 Against                      14 Abstentions                      Defeated**

### **11. Constitutional Change 3**

**15/A11** (Addition of Entrance fees to Subscription rates)

This just a tidying exercise.

**Majority in favour                      0 Against                      1 Abstention                      Carried**

### **12. Discussion on Powell St. Roof**

**15/A12** J. Lister as chairman of the Roofing sub-committee had produced a document (Appendix 3). He had spoken with the BBNP who informed him that any roof work would require planning consent which would last for 5 years and could be renewed. Cost of the project is unknown. His group were asked to consider the draft plans from G. Vaughan. There is no presumption on aesthetic grounds about removal of the chimneys. He would recommend any scheme where the roof would



be extended to the front and rear to give greater protection to the walls. Current timbers are nominal and most are smaller than they should be. A re-roof would give a chance to put in proper insulation. He referred to a report received in 2007 which is on the Club website. This report stated that all timbers were defective but replacement was not of great urgency. A great deal of damp pushed through into the buildings through the chimneys and flashings and it recommended removal of those chimneys not in use. Our policy of immediate repairs to anything loose, slipped, broken needed to be maintained.

V. Allkins stated that slate had to be used on the Stump. J. Harvey pointed out that intermediate floors, walls and the roof were all interlinked. He suggested replacement of the faulty purlins, creation of a conventional roof and rafters that can be easily attached. In the past it hasn't been tied across the building. J. Lister then explained further details to J. Harvey, cottages were probably reroofed in 1926. J. Harvey suggested that the 2007 report had a number of errors and that we should go back to square 1. Committee needs guidance.

C. Friend pointed out that the majority of people in the AGM didn't have the knowledge to decide whether one point of view was any more valid than another. K. Goodhead stated that as a first point the AGM should decide what they wanted to do about the chimney stacks.

B. Stevens asked for a guide on the cost of taking down and rebuilding a chimney stack in order to make a more informed opinion. Cost would be ~£2 500 per chimney so a total cost for all chimneys to be taken down and rebuilt would be nearly £20 000.

There were further views expressed about how bad the situation of the roof was perceived to be. Several people stated the view that a few slates could mean the whole roof could be removed by a gust of wind; the roof needs doing sooner rather than later. P. Hallihan asked about detailed plans and costs but this could not be answered as it was a huge unknown.

### **Motion**

Any roof scheme should include removal of the redundant chimney stacks.

Proposed K. Goodhead

Seconded C. Pepper

**27 In favour**

**16 Against**

**9 Abstentions**

**Carried**

P. Quill wanted a roof fund that that is ring fenced so if there is a catastrophe and the roof is lost there is a contingency.

H. Dare stated that in his experience 1/4 to 1/3 of slates could be lost when they were taken off – however carefully. L. Williams asked what had changed to make the roof more of a priority and was told that the roof timbers were deteriorating.

Questions were asked relating to what had happened to the roof fund. Various past treasurers at the meeting stated what was evident in the accounts during their tenure and it seems that at some time in the past the "roof fund" became part of the main account. B. Jopling said the owners of Y Grithig had recently had their house reroofed so there could be some guidance on price and workmanship from them. A. Freem stated that the DYO roof which was ~2/3rds the size of ours cost £80 000 to replace.

J. Lister said that the roof had been sub-standard since it was first fitted and needed a full rebuild and A. Richardson stated that the insurance would not pay out for this. P. Hallihan again wanted a report with costings and a target date.

### **Motion**

#### **The Club moves with expediency towards the re-roofing of the HQ.**

(This would include advice reports and quotations)

Proposed G. Vaughan

Seconded P. Meredith

**Majority in favour**

**0 Against**

**4 Abstentions**

**Carried**

### **Motion**

The Club should set up a ring fenced roof fund.

Proposed P. Quill

Seconded P. Collings-Wells

**38 In favour**

**0 Against**

**8 Abstentions**

**Carried**

H. Lomas spoke about the need to be proactive in fund raising, apply for grants, possibly a commercial or private mortgage and maybe a donation for one year from the membership. We needed to be in fund raising mode. In the mid 1990's there was £45 000 in the roof fund. Elsie Little's legacy would also be a good starting point. A. Freem felt that it didn't need to be a separate account but could be within the main account.

T. Baker told the meeting that a private golf club sports facility had received a large contribution from the Lottery for reroofing – was it classed as a sports facility? We needed to find out what the criteria are for applying for such a grant. If it needed changes such as to the Constitution the Club should be aware of this. Margaret Richardson has experience in this area.

### **13. Proposal for Honorary Membership**

**15/A13** Richard Preece Honorary Membership proposal. A. Richardson spoke :-

"Richard Preece was, amongst other things, the Warden for the OFD NNR and has been associated with OFD and hence SWCC for some 25 years.

I first came across him when I joined the OFDCMC, about ten years ago, where he chaired the meetings.

One of his claims to fame was that he had never missed an OFDCMC meeting, though he had, on a number of occasions, had to walk up the hill due to snow.

Over the years he has through his good offices with CCW and NRW, provided money and resources for the Club. He was, for example, instrumental in getting grants from the CCW and NRW for the purchase of the land around the club and for OFD1.

He has also provided considerable amounts of material over the years, lintels for digs and plastic pipe to line shafts being two more recent examples of his assistance. The gates for OFD whilst being made by Pete Cardy were funded by CCW/NRW, again there was never a problem getting money for them due to Richard's assistance.

Why did he do all this? Ok, partly it was his job to look after the OFD NNR, but he himself had been a caver in his younger days and liked being around cavers. Having personally met a number of CCW/NRW personnel over the years, however friendly and helpful they were, you could sense that they didn't really understand us. Richard

did and always enjoyed visiting SWCC. I always found him helpful and approachable.

It was with some regret that I was unable to attend his retirement party but Fred and Jem were able to on behalf of the Club.

Finally I commend to you this proposal for Honorary Membership."

J. Rowland added that he made a significant contribution behind the scenes. He's a quiet person and has made a huge difference to the Club. When told he was being proposed for Honorary membership he was extremely pleased and honoured.

### **Unanimous in favour**

B. Jopling stated that he was one of the few non-club members who has been recognised by the Club and made an Honorary member.

## **14. Election of Officers**

### **15/A14 (i) President**

There were 2 nominations for President:-

**Jem Rowland** and **Gary Vaughan**

Gary stated that his contesting the President position was because he believed that all roles should be contested; it was a healthy state of affairs.

**Jem Rowland**

**Elected**

Jem spoke briefly and said what an honour it was to be holding the post. He had never asked to be President but had always been asked if he was prepared to stand.

He has had a number of members had that had confided in him over the last year as they were considerably concerned and upset over comments on social media which had actually damaged the Club. There was a proper place for healthy debate and constructive discussion.

The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club was coming up and he would like to see a major find on our patch – so get digging!

### **15/A14 (ii) Vice Presidents**

The three Trustees were proposed en bloc.

**Alison Maddocks**

**Clark Friend**

**John Lister**

Proposed K. Goodhead

Seconded P. Hallihan

**Elected unanimously**

**Mick Day**

Proposed D. Dobson

Seconded B. Jopling

**Fred Levett**

Proposed J. Rowland

Seconded C. Friend

**Both Elected unanimously**

## **15/A14 (iii) Officers of the Club**

<b>Chairman</b> Proposed G. Vaughan	<b>Pete Hobson</b> Seconded B. Jopling	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Secretary</b> Proposed T. Baker	<b>Gary Vaughan</b> Seconded P.Quill	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Treasurer</b> Proposed C. Pepper	<b>Harvey Lomas</b> Seconded P. Hallihan	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Editor</b>	<b>No nominations</b>	
<b>Records Officer</b> Proposed H. Lomas	<b>Allan Richardson</b> Seconded B. Clipstone	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Equipment Officer</b> Proposed K. Goodhead	<b>Iain Miller</b> Seconded A. Dobson	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Cave Rescue Liaison Officer</b> Proposed P. Hallihan	<b>Vince Allkins</b> Seconded G. Vaughan	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Warden</b> Proposed P. Hobson	<b>Brian Clipstone</b> Seconded A. Dobson	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Conservation Officer</b> Proposed K. Goodhead Bernie Woodley asked that a younger member would be encouraged to shadow him in the role of Conservation Officer in order to learn what the job involved.	<b>Bernie Woodley</b> Seconded A. Richardson	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Training Officer</b> Proposed A. Dobson	<b>Piers Hallihan</b> Seconded B. Jopling	<b>Elected</b>

### **Estate Manager**

There were no nominations and B. Jopling suggested that a sub-committee would be the best option as the task was so huge. Paul Meredith and Vince Allkins offered to help Chris Grimmett with the task. Chris Grimmett did concede that the Risk Management sub-committee work did overlap.

### **15/A14 (iv) Ordinary Members**

The Chairman invited nominations for four ordinary members:-

<b>Tim Lewingdon</b> Proposed P. Hallihan	Seconded B. Clipstone	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Martin Hoff</b> Proposed J. Rowland	Seconded T. Baker	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Chloe Francis</b> Proposed P. Francis	Seconded P. Hobson	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Celestine Crabbe</b> Proposed G. Vaughan	Seconded B. Jopling	<b>Elected</b>

**Lel Davies** would be co-opted as **Membership Secretary**.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to C. Grimmett and P. Collings-Wells for all their work.

### **15. Appointment of Auditor**

**15/A15** Christiane Michel was proposed as Auditor with mentor support from Janine Graham

Proposed J. Lister

Seconded P. Meredith

**All in favour**

### **16. Policy Document**

**15/A16** J. Rowland suggested that the Committee be instructed to look at all aspects and update the Policy Document; it hadn't been done for some years.

Proposed J. Rowland

Seconded C. Friend

**All in favour**

A. Freem spoke about the problems of abusiveness to individuals at the Club. There had been a number of allegations often of a sexual nature. Offensiveness is as seen by the recipient not by the giver and it is on the increase. There is evidence that it is affecting whether people join the Club or not. He wished to raise awareness of this issue. The subject needed to be reviewed and any public notices displayed that such behaviour is not acceptable in the Club.

S. Goodhead pointed out that both referrals to Rescue and the Constitution needed particular attention – in short it needed to be gone through with a fine tooth-comb.

### **17. Any Other Business**

#### **15/A17 Right of Access across the quarry Stockyard**

B. Radcliffe enquired about the right of access through the quarry stockyard. Was it used on an occasional basis to keep it going? A. Freem replied that he had recently had a conversation with a BBNP employee who said that there are active negotiations about re-opening of part of that land for public access.

C. Friend reported that he had been requested through B. Woodley & S. Goodhead to talk to Jackie Dennam who was part of a company that the BBNP had engaged to look at the feasibility of creating a "Penwyllt Visitor Experience". She was fact finding and wanted to know about rights of way & land owned by the Club. She later sent a flyer to him which was incorrect in that it stated that the BBNP, BWT, NRW and SWCC were in partnership on this and that SWCC had been part of the commissioning process for her company. SWCC had not been party to any of this. C. Friend had written a reply to show that the two points were wrong and as this is to be a public document it should be immediately corrected.

The scheme is part of an old Geopark concept that they have a desire to open up the Brickworks as part of encouraging the public to come and look at the Industrial Heritage of Penwyllt. There is however no public Right of Way from the CRoW land to the north of the cottages, to the Brickworks. There is access for CCW by deed & permission for tenants to use our tracks, but no one else. B. Woodley explained further about the BBNP concept of a Penwyllt Visitor Experience and that the company was fact finding.

The RoW across the stockyard is in our deeds.

#### **15/A18 Governance of the Club**

J. Rowland explained that when the incorporation/corporation/governance debate was discussed by the sub-committee they also began to look at the possible restructuring of the Committee to make it easier for Committee members and to reduce the length of time spent in meetings; this would possibly mean some changes being made to the Constitution to make this happen. Would the meeting like the sub-committee to carry on looking at this and with a view to bringing some recommendations to the next AGM?

### **Motion**

The Governance sub-committee is requested to continue its work reviewing the governance of the Club with an aim of bringing some recommendations to the next AGM.

Proposed J. Rowland

Seconded B. Jopling

**Majority in favour**

**0 Against**

**2 Abstentions**

**Carried**

### **15/A19 Mary Hazelton's dragon**

P. Meredith inquired about the whereabouts and wellbeing of Mary Hazelton's dragon. She is safe and well in her current abode.

### **15/A20 Adopt a Club link with SUCC**

J. White had made contact again with Southampton Caving Club who would like to renew their association with SWCC which had started with the Adopt a Club scheme. She would to encourage them to come to more SWCC events. G. Vaughan asked if there were any other applications for adoption? P. Hallihan said that the BCA policy was for one club to be "adopted" but that shouldn't exclude us from building on the links that Claire Vivian had created with Swansea University and the efforts being made to rebuild the links with Cardiff University. A. Freem said that Aberystwyth University enjoyed their time at SWCC and would be very keen for members to help them out with trips.

**All agreed that the link with Southampton be continued for another year.**

K. Goodhead pointed out that the transient nature of University Club officials worked against this. He had had contact with SUCC at the beginning of the academic year and the officers had no idea that there was a special relationship with SWCC. He asked how this could be improved?

### **15/A21 New Survey**

V. Allkins said that all those who had put so much time and effort into the production of the new survey would like to see the result. It is time to forget what has happened in the past and all come together to move the issue forward to a conclusion. The surveyors were asked for their input and it was that they just wanted the survey up on the wall.

B. Stevens asked for some background information and explanation relating to the current situation.

The Chairman summarised:-

Holywell could produce 200 copies plus a large wall copy for £7 000

The 200 copies would be sold at £40

Concerns over costing and damages in storage but the Committee had agreed to the spend although some had reservations.

The day after the Committee meeting G. Vaughan had said that he could print the survey for a lower cost.

C. Friend asked if G. Vaughan had a saleable file and the response was that some would say not but a copy had been brought to the meeting so people could see it. This could be sold at £15.

The order with Holywell had been put on hold and subsequently they had been asked for an invoice for the work they carried out.

B. Clipstone asked C. Grimmett to explain where we are currently. Yorkshire CC had been at the Club recently and in passing had said that they knew of a company in Yorkshire who printed all the cave surveys up there; they were good and cheap. He had been requested by the last Committee meeting to find out more and had the following quote:-

100 of 3m saleable surveys            £8.40 each incl. VAT  
120 rolled for customer collection on plastic ~ £12.50 + VAT  
Large copy for the wall on paper (180g) £67 + VAT

He suggested that we moved quickly on this. He needed to find a price for a plastic one for the wall and a sample to look at quality. A. Richardson said that he had seen some of the company's work and the quality was good and was also recommended by Kevin Dixon who is a well-known cave surveyor. P. Hallihan pointed out that holding stock would not be a problem as the supplies would be bought very quickly. I. Miller wanted the survey published asap otherwise it could be out of date with all the new passage the Club diggers hoped to find before the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

B. Jopling proposed a vote of thanks to the surveyors for their dedication and hard work in producing the survey – applauded by all.

### **Motion**

The Committee's decision to put on hold the Holywell order be ratified by this AGM and the incoming Committee should pursue the Yorkshire quotation with all haste.

Proposed G. Vaughan

Seconded P. Hobson

**Majority in favour**

**0 Against**

**1 Abstention**

**Carried**

P. Hobson the proposed a vote of thanks to C. Friend the huge amount of work he had put in involving the survey – applauded. V. Allkins added that it should be for all those involved.

### **15/A22 Date and time of AGM 2016**

**Proposal** "The 2016 AGM will be held at 9.a.m. on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April at a venue to be decided (probably the Miners' Welfare Hall, Abercraf).

Proposed T. Baker

Seconded P. Hobson

**All in favour**

**15/A23** There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 13.40

Sue Goodhead

14 May 2015