

# PWLL DU CAVE MANAGEMENT GROUP

**Minutes of the Meeting held at the Salisbury Community Hall, Govilon, on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016 commencing at 10am.**

## **Attendees:**

Fleur Loveridge	Oxford UCC/Red Rose CPC	Secretary
Dan Thorne	Gagendor	Club Rep
Dave Glover	Morganwg C. C.	Club Rep
Barry Hill	Hereford C. C.	Club Rep
Spencer Drew	Treasurer	
Stuart France	C. C. C.	Observer
Chris Densham	Oxford U.C.C. & Trustee	Club Rep
Rich Smith	B.E.C	Club Rep
Ruth Allen	B.E.C	
Joshua White	A.C.C Club Rep & Conservation Officer	
Steve King	Shepton Mallet C.C.	Club Rep
Mick Day	Chairman	
Chris Byrne	Natural Resources Wales	
Ali Garman	Draenen Diggers	Club Rep

## **1. Apologies**

Apologies received from Charles Bailey (Trustee), Pete Talling (UBSS), Martin Hoff (SWCC), Sue Mabbett (Access), John Pybus (Survey Officer), Peter Smith (Biological Recorder).

## **2a. Minutes of the last Meetings (22<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 & 12<sup>th</sup> June 2016)**

In the absence of a quorum at the last meeting the minutes from November 2015 could not be formally approved at that time. These minutes were then reviewed and no objections to their contents raised.

With respect to the June 2016 minutes it was recorded that there was no link between the efforts to attain limited access to Draenen for BCA caver training and assessment activities and the proposed works at Drws Cefn. The word "BCA" is also to be inserted in front of caver training and assessment in the minutes.

Following this discussion the minutes from June 2016 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

## **2b. Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the Agenda**

There were no matters arising which would not be covered later in the agenda.

## **3. Officers Reports**

### **a) Secretary**

On Drws Cefn there is little progress with respect to licensing.

There have been no further legal developments with respect to claims against NRW.

There has been no response from the landowner on access for BCA caver training and assessment. It was agreed to keep asking and try to influence on this topic.

b) Treasurer

The treasurer's report is appended.

£250 in donations had been received. Works in the entrance shaft (scaffolding, brick layer etc) should cost about £200 for which these costs remain as receipts to be paid to those involved.

c) Permit Secretary/Access Officer

The access officer sent her apologies but had supplied a report (appended). Thanks to Matt Sinclair and Pete Bolt for collecting the log book entries. Cave numbers remain steady, perhaps slightly down.

d) Conservation Officer

Just returned from travelling, so not much to report. However, the monitoring scheme will now be picked up again. Martin Hoff had separately reported his willingness to help with this. Chris Densham also expressed a willingness to assist. Josh to send Fleur an email with details of a call for assistance for circulation to the group.

e) Survey Secretary

An apology was received but not report.

f) Survey Recorder

No report.

g) Biological Recorder

The Biological Recorder sent his apologies along with a report which is appended.

h) Geological Recorder.

No report.

i) Fixed Aids Officer

The annual inspection for 2016 was carried out in June following the last meeting. Malcolm Stewart from MCC took responsibility for this. All the metalwork and new ropes were visually inspected and are ok.

Although not a fixed aid, discussion then followed about the situation with the scaffolded shaft. Work was carried out in May/June to replace the timberwork that has been rotting. Only timbers in two panels now remain to be replaced. Timber has been procured for this process and awaits a trip for installation.

The scaffolding itself will not be able to be removed due to rusting. But all the joints and clips have been looked at carefully and appear to be OK at present. To upgrade this aspect in the future would require a new inner metal frame.

Above the wet slot in the entrance series the roof was looking like it had lost some support due to a mud bank being cut back. Work to support the roof is ongoing through construction of a wall. To permit these works to take place a plastic pipe has been installed to capture the water. This water could in future be

routed elsewhere, to be considered further in the future. The BEC/ACC caving party of that afternoon were asked to review this aspect.

Works in the entrance area have mainly been carried out by MCC members on Thursday evening. Thanks are extended to those assisting.

#### **4. Election of Officers/Recorders**

N/A

#### **5. Other Group Business - Update on Drws Cefn Licensing**

Included in 3a above.

#### **6. Applications for membership**

None, but following the discussions of the last meeting it was confirmed that the Cardiff Hill Divers were a BCA affiliated club set up last year to accommodate post Cardiff University cavers. It was proposed that the CHD join the PDCMG. Proposed FL, seconded SD. All voted in favour with no abstentions.

#### **7. Applications to become keyholders**

None. However, JW requested the possibility of a second key for ACC to help him with his conservation tasks. There is precedent in other clubs (e.g. OUCC) and this request was approved.

#### **8. AOB**

Mick Day, who has served the PDCMG as chairman since the group's inception, is to retire from the role. The Group therefore needs to seek a new "independent" chairman as per the constitution. Given the new appointment will need to be agreed by vote, Mick agreed to come to one more PDCMG meeting to oversee that agreement. All members to consider suitable replacements for the role.

Very many thanks to Mick for many years of service.

Next meeting: Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

Meeting closed at 11.00 AM

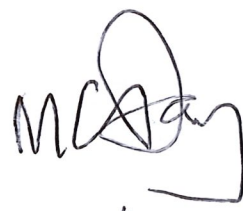
#### **Attachments:**

**Treasurers Report**

**Caver Numbers**

**Biological Recorder Report**

**Fixed Aids Report**

  
15<sup>th</sup> October 2017

## Pwll Du Cave Management Group

### Income And Expenditure Account For the Period Ending 31st October 2016

		Period 01/06/16 to 31/10/16		Period ending 31/05/16		Period ending 31/05/15	
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income:</b>							
<b>Donations:</b>							
	SWCC		0.00		0.00		0.00
	F Lovendge		0.00		36.00		0.00
	Cwmbran CC		0.00		0.00		0.00
	Hereford Caving Club		25.00		0.00		0.00
	MCC		100.00		0.00		0.00
	BEC		0.00		0.00		0.00
	Shepton Mallet CC		20.00		0.00		0.00
	OUCG		50.00		0.00		50.00
	UBSS		20.00		20.00		30.00
	Dudley CC		0.00		0.00		20.00
	Draenen Diggers		0.00		105.00		0.00
	Refund From CCC (Insurance)		0.00		50.00		50.00
	Refund From CCC (Hall hire)		0.00		0.00		0.00
	Bank Interest:		0.00		0.00		0.00
			215.00		211.00		150.00
<b>Expenditure:</b>							
	New lock and Keys	0.00		0.00		0.00	
	BCA Insurance	0.00		(50.00)		(50.00)	
	Hall Hire	0.00		(36.00)		0.00	
	New safety equipment (Draenen)	0.00		(105.00)		0.00	
			0.00		(191.00)		(50.00)
	<b>Surplus of Income Over Expenditure</b>		215.00		20.00		100.00

Notes to the above for the period ending 31st October 2016

	2016	2016	2015
The closing balance actually requests the following:			
Balance in Current A/c	642.61	427.61	407.61
Balance in Reserve A/c	0.10	0.10	0.10
Total Funds	642.71	427.71	407.71

Many thanks to the many donations which will cover the works undertaken in the entrance series.

Spencer Drew ACA DipPFS AwPETR BSc  
Treasurer  
(Spencer.Drew@NWworld.com)

## Caver Numbers

Detailed below is copy of the summary figures for Nov 2015 to 13 Nov 2016. Figures remain steady / slightly down. I have had very few requests in last six months for keys however clubs with permanent keys are taking in 'guest clubs' including a few taking visitors from Eurospeleo which is good to see.

### Trips Recorded in Ogof Draenen Nov 2015 to Oct 2016

	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Parties	6	8	6	2	4	3
Persons	19	29	30	9	11	8

	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-15	Dec-15
Parties	3	5	6	8	4	6
Persons	11	15	24	29	14	22

Total = 221

## Biological Recorders Report

Lee Knight has sent me his definitive list of taxa from his study in Ogof Draenen. I have forwarded a copy to Fleuer (on Friday). He will be working on a paper for this survey over the winter. Most of the species recorded are not particularly associated with caves, but four are stygobitic (obligate cave dwellers) and five inhabit both surface and subterranean aquatic environments, but are not necessarily restricted to either. The four stygobitic species widespread in south Wales and southern England and are also found on the continent.

Peter Smith, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2016.

DRAFT

## Fixed Aids Report

### Ogof Draenen Fixed Aids - 15/10/2016

Pwll Du Cave Management Group

								Inspection 15/10/16 - Malcolm	
No.	Location	Identification	Specification	PPE	Installed By	Installation Date	Inspection Due	Rigging Comments	Inspection Comments
1	Entrance Climb	1st backup Eco hanger furthest from pitch head	DMM Eco hanger	Yes	CCC	??	15/10/2017	Un-used	OK
2		Middle Eco hanger	DMM Eco hanger	Yes	CCC	??	15/10/2017	Rope tied directly into Eco hanger	Hanger rotates slight. Loaded perpendicularly so not a concern
3		Main hang Eco hanger	DMM Eco hanger	Yes	CCC	??	15/10/2017	agarmen: Qualifies as Person Protective Equipment	Resin does not completely fill the hole flush to the surface
4		MR for 3rd Eco hanger	10mm Long Open MR	Yes	AG & JC	24/04/2010	15/10/2017		Consider replacement with stainless Steel MR
5		Traverse and knotted handline	11mm Edelrid Performance Static	Yes	AG	25/07/2015	15/10/2017		OK
6	Indiana Highway	1st Eco hanger from Indian Highway end	DMM Eco hanger	Yes	CCC	??	15/10/2017	Tied directly into Eco hanger	OK
7		2nd Eco hanger	DMM Eco hanger	Yes	CCC	??	15/10/2017		OK
8		MR for 2nd Eco hanger	10mm Long Open MR	Yes	AG & JC	24/04/2010	15/10/2017		OK - some surface corrosion
9		3rd Eco hanger	DMM Eco hanger	Yes	CCC	??	15/10/2017		OK
10		MR for 3rd Eco hanger	10mm Long Open MR	Yes	AG & JC	24/04/2010	15/10/2017		OK - some surface corrosion
11		4th Eco hanger	DMM Eco hanger	Yes	CCC	??	15/10/2017	Tied directly to Eco hanger	OK
12		Traverse line	11mm Edelrid Performance Static	Yes	AG	25/07/2015	15/10/2017		OK
13	Balcony Pitch	Left hand Eco hanger	DMM Eco hanger	Yes	CCC	??	15/10/2017		OK
14		MR for Left Eco hanger	12mm Long Open MR	Yes	AG & MS	22/05/2011	15/10/2017		OK
15		Right hand Eco hanger	DMM Eco hanger	Yes	CCC	??	15/10/2017		OK
16		MR for Right Eco hanger	10mm Delta MR	Yes	AG & MS	22/05/2011	15/10/2017		OK - slight surface corrosion
17		MR for Left of ladder	10mm Long Open MR	No	AG & MS	22/05/2011	15/10/2017		OK - very slight surface corrosion
18		MR for Right of ladder	10mm Long Open MR	No	AG & MS	22/05/2011	15/10/2017		OK
19		MR for lifeline	10mm Long Open MR	Yes	AG & MS	22/05/2011	15/10/2017	Linked into Delta MR	OK - some surface corrosion
20		Looped ladder lifeline	11mm Edelrid Performance Static	Yes	AG	25/07/2015	15/10/2017	Runs through 10mm MR	OK
21		Stainless Steel Ladder	Daren style ladder	No	AG & MS	22/05/2011	15/10/2017	Lifeline is the PPE	OK
22		Chain for rigging ladder	10mm Zinc Plated chain	No	AG & MS	22/05/2011	15/10/2017		OK