



**Minutes of BCA Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 11th June 2011
at Alvechurch Church Hall, Alvechurch**

Present:

Andy Eavis (AE)	Chairman / UIS Rep. / Individual Member
David Cooke (DC)	Treasurer / Cave Registry Sec / Cerberus SS Rep. / Individual Member
Damian Weare (DW)	Secretary / Handbook Editor / Hades CC Rep. / Individual Member
David Judson (DJu)	Legal & Insurance Officer / Individual Member
Elsie Little (EL)	Conservation & Access Officer / Individual Member
Les Williams (LW)	P & I Officer / Webmaster / Wessex CC Rep. / Individual Member
Graham Mollard (GM)	Training Officer
Nick Williams (NW)	Equipment & Techniques Officer / Insurance Manager / Individual Member
Glenn Jones (GJ)	Membership Administrator / CNCC Rep. / Individual Member
Clark Friend (CF)	Radon Working-Party Convenor / Individual Member
Jenny Potts (JP)	Publication Sales / DCA Rep. / Individual Member
Bob Mehew (BM)	Rope-Test Officer / Individual Member
Mike Clayton (MC)	Newsletter Editor / Individual Member
Ged Campion (GC)	FSE Rep. / Individual Member
Mark Williams (MW)	CSCC Rep. / Individual Member
Dave Pettet (DP)	ASCT Rep. / Individual Member
Steve Holding (SH)	NAMHO Rep. / Individual Member
Dave Checkley (DCh)	BCRA Rep. / Individual Member
Mick Day (MD)	Individual Member
Boyd Potts (BP)	Orpheus CC Rep. / Individual Member
Faye Litherland (FLi)	BEC Rep / Individual Member
Emma Porter (EP)	Craven Pothole Club Rep. / Individual Member
Paul Ibberson (PI)	Individual Member
Fleur Loveridge (FLo)	OUCC Rep. / Individual Member
Maurice Febry (MF)	FoDCCAG Rep. / Individual Member
Stephan Natynczuk (SN)	ACI Rep. / Individual Member
Bernie Woodley (BW)	SWCC Rep. / Individual Member

The meeting commenced at 10:35.

1. Chairman's Welcome

AE welcomed members to this Annual General Meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: David Jean, Alan Finch, James Collings, Chris Jewell, Idris Williams, Mike McCombe and Charlie Milton.

3. Applications for Club Membership

GJ: Applications have been received from: The Airedale Caving Club. All the relevant paperwork and payments have been supplied.

Proposal: *That The Airedale Caving Club be accepted as a BCA Member Club.*

Prop: GJ, Sec: DW *agreed unanimously*

4. Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting (previously circulated)

4.1 Proposal: *That the Minutes from 20th March 2010 be taken as read*

Prop: JP, Sec: LW *agreed unanimously*

4.2 Proposal: *That the Minutes from 20th March 2010 be accepted as a true record*

DW: Highlighted 3 typos on Page 2 (complete, risen and were) and 1 on Page 8 (held)

Prop: BM, Sec: LW *agreed unanimously*

5. Matters Arising for the Minutes of the last Council Meeting

None

Officers' Reports

6. Chairman's Report (*written report previously circulated*)

Proposal: ***That the Chairman's Report be accepted***

Prop: BM, Sec: JP *agreed unanimously*

7. Secretary's Report (*written report previously circulated*)

Proposal: ***That the Secretary's Report be accepted***

Prop: LW, Sec: MW *agreed unanimously*

8. Treasurer's Report (*written report previously circulated*)

DC: Would like to highlight the need for some work to be done on BCA's IT Services.

AE: DC has worked extremely hard over the years and we do very much appreciate his efforts.

BM: For the record we did used to pay tax prior to 2006. We paid £326 in 2005 and similar sums in previous years. More significantly, BM thought the online banking resolution agreed by Council was only to be applied to one account.

LW: When discussing the issue of protecting accounts, we need to remember that banks no longer check signatures on cheques, so the additional security of requiring two signatures is somewhat academic.

BM: Yes, but if a bank accepts a forged signature, it is then liable.

AE: We will look at previous Minutes and consider whether or not we have acted as instructed. [*Post-Meeting Note: The Resolution from January 2011's Council Meeting applied to all accounts. Internet-based accounts were also discussed in numerous other meetings, particularly March 2007 DW*]

GJ: How are we going to take forward DC's suggestion? It is a good idea.

DW: We need to take away the suggestion, consider it and come back to the October Council Meeting. **Action: DW, AE, PI, DC and LW to liaise over setting up a group to look at BCA's IT Services.**

DJu: Thanks to DC for producing an excellent report.

DC: Feels it was a very wise decision to move the AGM. It makes it a much more realistic proposition to present the Accounts on time.

JP: There was some income for the BCL from a "lucky dip". We may well have some more income in the future from selling books and other publications. This income has gone to the BCRA accounts.

DC: That is the correct process, as our money is given in the form of a grant.

DW: Although it appears in the accounts that we don't spend any money on C&A, actually this is something that is largely devolved to the Regions and our C&A spending is covered under RCC money.

NW: We need to get this message out to grass-roots cavers or they will think we are irrelevant.

BP: DCA does say that such money comes from BCA.

AE: This could be put into *Speleology*.

DW: It would be nice to spend all the Recreational Caver Training money budget in future years. We have tried quite hard to advertise its availability, but are still not managing to spend it. Could there be some more inventive ways to spend it in future, such as paying CICs to produce technical articles for publication, or short bits of film?

GM: Good idea.

GM: What happened to last year's surplus under the Training Heading? Should this be rolled over, as we are generally expected to break even?

DC: It is simply reabsorbed into general funds.

BM: It is reasonable that BCA should be expected to take up a shortfall on occasion. Also, strictly speaking the money spent on Training Committee meetings comes under the professional heading in the Accounts, but actually shouldn't. If this were altered, it would show that professional Training is even more self-financing.

GM: Maybe we should be funding people getting trained correctly as part of BCA's remit and, therefore, expect recreational cavers to contribute to the professional side.

DP: There does seem to be an issue among Scout Caving Teams of getting onto LCMLA training and assessment courses.

AE: Let's look at this later.

DW: There has been a large increase in the Travel heading of Training Services. Is this likely to be a one-off, or will it

continue into the future?

GM: CIC meetings didn't use to claim for travel, but many now are because of the increased petrol costs. GM anticipates it will fall again in 2012 assuming the proposed changes to committees take place.

Proposal: ***That the Treasurer's Report be accepted***

Prop: JP, Sec: MW *agreed unanimously*

9. Conservation & Access Report

EL: Once again this year I must thank the Conservation Teams around the Regions who have worked admirably to maintain our underground environment and access. Centrally only two matters have been of major concern: White Nose Syndrome in our bats has knocked at our shores but not proved as problematic as in the new world. Research is really only just getting underway, but it does look like our European bats have some form of resistance to infection. However, it behoves us to continue to support the concept of cleaning equipment and clothing to avoid carrying potential contamination.

Currently the plan to build on the agreement we made over access with The National Trust and to roll it out around other Bodies is in full swing. We met with the Forestry Commission (thanks to Dave Judson [BCRA] and John Hine [FoDCCAG] for their support at the time) and made considerable headway towards formalising matters. Special thanks to Dave, who has assisted in the e-mail activity while I have been abroad and my machine has been saying "no"!

The C&A team's input has been gratefully received and all positive.

LW: From CSCC's perspective the National agreement with the NT has proved very helpful recently.

GM: Was asked to talk to Centres in the Yorkshire Dales National Park about Victoria Cave. The conclusion GM draws from having done this is that none of the Centres seem to be going there.

EL: We did reach the conclusion that as a Caving Body there was very little we could do to help with the Victoria Cave problem.

DJu: The cave is actually owned by the National Park so that it can be conserved, and really they need to do something about the rabbits.

GM: Very happy to raise it at the next Local Access meeting.

NW: Will also raise it with his BMC's contacts.

DCh: This is crazy. It is extremely important scientifically and yet nobody seems to be doing anything.

BM: We could tell cavers not to go there.

EL: We need to balance this against drawing people's attention to a site they probably wouldn't visit anyway. It is not really a cavers' cave.

LW: Seems a real shame that something owned by the NP cannot be protected.

BM: We could ask Council to consider providing a sum of money to kill the rabbits for a year.

FLo: At last year's AGM FLo was very concerned about losing access to Ogof Draenen, but she is very pleased that this has now been secured. This was due in part to BCA's strong support and FLo would like to thank BCA for this.

Proposal: ***That the Conservation & Access Officer's Report be accepted***

Prop: BM, Sec: DC *agreed unanimously*

10. Equipment & Techniques Report

NW: Firstly I apologise for not submitting a written report. Work and family commitments limit my time as usual and, knowing that I was going to be present to present a verbal report, over the last two weeks I decided it was more important to spend what little time I have had for E+T matters on attempting to make progress with committee business rather than writing a formal report for the AGM.

Most persons present will be aware of ongoing issues with E+T business which have been brought to Council and referred back to E+T and myself for resolution. All I wish to say in this forum is that progress is being made, slowly, and I do not intend to waste time or inflame matters further by discussing them here.

The Committee has held two meetings since the last AGM and, despite impressions to the contrary, progress has been made in several areas. We are close to finalising a supply of a replacement for the DMM Eco-Anchor, and Bob Mehew has continued good work on his rope testing activities.

I am prepared to stand as E+T Convenor for the coming period.

a. Rope-Test Report (*written report previously circulated*)

AE: What are your thoughts on publishing the work on the ICC ropes?

BM: The basic summary is that leaving knots in ropes doesn't seem to make any difference. BM feels this is all part of his work on handlines. The write-up will probably end up in *Speleology*.

DCh: There is a Cave Technology Symposium coming soon. That might also be a suitable forum for a report.
FLi: Would like to report that CSCC will shortly be putting a piece of 13mm rope in Charterhouse Cave as a traverse line over a hole in the floor. This will be regularly checked and is being installed in part because of BM's work in this area.
CF: What is the progress with the new puller?
NW: It looks to be very promising.
BM: May be asking for test beds in the various Regions at some point.
GJ: In summary it is an excellent piece of kit, but a few things still need tweaking.

Proposal: *To accept Equipment & Techniques Officer's Report.*

Prop: SN Sec: LW *agreed unanimously*

11. **Training Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

GM: Had a response yesterday from CNCC about Training Committee.
LW: CSCC's response is on its way, but hasn't arrived yet.
GM: AALS will no longer exist within the next 18 months and it is uncertain who will replace them, but it will probably be one of two Organisations.
NW: Are you in communication with HSE over this?
GM: Yes, but only recently.
GM: Revalidations have cost more money than we made from them. This will hopefully sort itself out in the next 12 months or so. Under the new system people who don't revalidate in time will suffer.
DP: From the ASCT's point of view it is not the money, it is the fact that these are all being cancelled to the extent that Scout Teams have had people refusing to go through the LCMLA process. The result is that Scouts have had to ask people with LCMLA Level 2 to assess people outside their counties.
GM: There shouldn't have been any issues with Revalidations since Christmas. As far as Training Courses are concerned, BCA has no control over these.
DP: Is not aware of any problems since Christmas. Feels the problems with Training Courses are important for BCA to consider.
GM: Wasn't aware that lots of Training Courses have been cancelled. GM is not informed about Training Courses.
BM: There are two possible models for delivery. The first is that the Trainer/Assessors handle everything themselves. If they aren't providing a quality service, then in the long term that is really their problem. The other alternative is that control of everything rests with BCA, as with the new revalidation system. Would GM be willing to consider revisiting this model?
GM: If there is a problem with T/As not running courses when they say they will, GM can't do anything about it. However, please put any concerns to GM in writing. BM is correct. The system is under review and the revalidations process is being altered at present.
MF: Is this a Regional issue? There don't seem to have been any problems for Scouts in Gloucestershire.
DP: Yes.
MF: People need to be talking to each other.
DP: This is why the ASCT was set up.
GM: Nigel Ball has been appointed by the Scout Association to be their caving contact. It is worth talking to him.
DP: The problem about Scouts and Mines was difficult because the ASCT didn't know anything about GM's involvement. Could GM please talk to ASCTs in future if he is contacted by the Scout Association?
GM: The SUI issue will be resolved shortly.
GM: Would very much like BCA's support in reintroducing the moderation of Training Courses.
GM: Will not carry on past the next AGM under any circumstances.
BM: Going back to 2004 the TO tended to come from the recreational area with a separate Technical Training Advisor. One of the things that BM was able to do when he held the TO role, was reduce the TTA role through introducing the Handbook etc. It appears that this role has increased once again.
GM: Feels it is quite important that the two roles are one person because they are so interlinked.
BM: Knows that some Regions will find this quite upsetting.
GM: Had a complaint recently that has been dealt with. GM understands that all RCCs have access agreements. However, there are a number of these access-restricted caves that have very positive applications from the point of view of Training. If access is restricted to commercial cavers, then pirating will continue to happen.
DC: Obviously this particular incident refers to Charterhouse Caves. It is the express condition of the landowner that there be no commercial caving, and there can be no leeway in this.

- AE: Is there a general shortage of caves that can be used for appropriate training?
- GM: There is a shortage of quality. We are talking here about Trainer/Assessors who are part of BCA not being given access to BCA caves.
- FLi: They are not BCA caves.
- EL: There have been similar situations in Wales and CCW have come down very heavily that they do not want commercial caving. We have tried to encourage them to discuss what “commercial caving” is, but they consider everything to be commercial.
- SN: Has had considerable experience of discussing what “commercial caving” actually is with Charterhouse CC Ltd. It is very frustrating.
- AE: On the one hand we know that landowners’ wishes are important, but we need to balance this against the possible need for suitable training venues.
- LW: If Training Committee start to negotiate with landowners, then this is likely to fall foul of BCA’s Constitution.
- SN: The ACI has 2 quite serious objections: firstly there is an inference that the various respondents to the Training Officer's suggestion of amalgamating the Training Committee with its sub committee, the NCP, were all in favour of the change. This is far from the case, with ACI in particular being strongly opposed to losing the current structure. We feel that there is a strong case for retaining a high-level Training Committee overseeing the work of its two subcommittees. The autocratic style of the Training Officer has not helped over recent years, with decisions that are properly the preserve of the Committee being taken alone by the Training Officer, sometimes against the wishes of the Committee. I would be keen to know from Council how they see their 'chairman of Standing Committees' and the role of the actual Committees within the democratic structure. ACI has always, perhaps mistakenly, understood that it was the Committees that were delegated to run the business, not the individual chairmen.
- Our second concern is the report concerning a complaint regarding access which has the words 'I am dealing with this matter'. What it doesn't say is that the Training Officer has already dealt with it by issuing a written warning to the T/A concerned without allowing that individual the chance to put 'his side of the story'. There has been no discussion with the person 'accused', no investigation by the Training Committee, just a decision by the Training Officer that the individual is 'guilty as charged'. This goes against any normal disciplinary procedure.
- GM: At the last Training Committee meeting it was 1 vote against amalgamation, and everyone else was in favour. As far as dealing with the complaint was concerned, GM dealt with it because it needed dealing with prior to the next meeting. Although GM has been accused of not looking into it, GM did talk to the ALO of the area in question and he was aware of it. GM also approached Council last year for a degree of decision-making powers, so that he could make decisions between TC meetings.
- SN: The T/A concerned has not had any chance to answer for himself. He also has the full support of the Training Region in this.
- AE: Would suggest that this needs to be taken further at the next meeting.
- DC: Normally when at work, there is a right to appeal etc. It appears that we haven’t clearly defined our approach.
- DW: This is something DW has already drafted for the Manual of Operations. It is clearly an important area.
- SN: GM said in the Minutes of last year that he would resign if someone were to step forward. SN is willing to step forward.
- BM: We appear to have allowed TC to meet once a year. BM would like to ask for this topic to be brought back to the October Council Meeting.
- FLi: Revalidation: If there is an average of only 2 or 3 on a course, then surely the cost should be split among the average number of attendees. If not, then BCA is effectively subsidising people’s work. Is that correct?
- GM: No. Professional Training makes a small profit in general. A great chunk of last year’s £4k profit was from Revalidations, which BCA took over to help subsidise the other parts of the Training Committee’s activities following the loss of Sports Council grants. The overall situation will probably even itself out next year. This is because revalidations are over a 5-year period and there will always be fluctuations.
- FLi: Recreational Cavers should not be subsidising this.
- GM: They don’t.
- BM: Furthermore the money that professional training has made in the last few years, is now in BCA’s Reserves.
- AE: Can this be looked at by the TC?
- BM: Please can the Treasurer also be involved?
- DC: The TC is created by this meeting according to the Constitution. Have you checked that your proposed changes to its structure fit with the Constitution?
- DW: The newly-planned Training Committee is the current TC plus other co-opted people. This is as defined by the

Constitution.

FLi: By co-opting lots of people onto the TC, doesn't that then dilute the votes of the RCCs?

GM: Yes.

FLi: It is very difficult for Reps to attend meetings. Could these be run over Skype to save costs?

DC: Skype works quite well for smaller sub Committees, but with too many participants becomes very difficult.

SH: In the past SH has attended TC. He still feels the fundamental problem is that the RCCs are sending their professional cavers. The result is that the TC is then duplicating the decisions of the professional meetings. Meetings held mid-week for professional cavers' benefits, does not help recreational cavers.

BM: It is worth remembering that the TC overview ought to be discussing recreational matters, as well as NCP and CIC Panel. NCP is quite busy in its workload in dealing with the aspects of LCMLA. While BM understands why this change is being made, it is the wrong move.

NW: Finding new participants for TC meetings is useful. It is also important to pay for someone to deal with some of the Training workload. Perhaps there needs to be improved communication. Is there any way we can split the workload of the TO?

DW: Suggests an Assistant TO for Recreational Caving.

CF: Why can someone else not chair a TC meeting in the TO's absence?

NW: Maybe we have a situation where one person is having to deal with too much at once. We need to improve the quality of volunteer input.

GM: There are several issues that come up that can't wait for a meeting.

NW: BCA has the same problems. In that situation BCA Executive deal with it.

LW: There is definite apathy from the amateur side of the sport in that there is no apparent relevance of the Training Committee to recreational cavers.

NW: The fact that there is nobody from the amateur side who chooses to be involved doesn't change the fact that we need the commercial side of the sport to be efficiently dealt with.

JP: DCA had a far-sighted Training Officer (Dave Edwards) who set up PICA. This brought together all those in the Peaks who were involved in any way in Commercial Training. This was done originally because of radon. That Committee has grown so it is now a group of all the local instructors. They meet regularly, DCA has a rep, and some of PICA also attend DCA meetings. We don't have conservation problems because DCA and PICA work together closely. Cannot see why each of the other Regions cannot get some communication together at a local level.

AE: Has already suggested that we defer this to the October meeting.

BM: Proposes we accept the report with thanks for considerable effort over the year.

Proposal: ***To accept Training Officer's Report.***

Prop: BM, Sec: JP *agreed unanimously*

12. **Publications & Information Report**

CF: The Radon booklet is now at the stage for LW to take it on and publish it. The HSE have referred the document on to their radon people. They have also said they don't normally get involved in things like this. It is also waiting for the HPA to get around to looking at it, but they are busy with other things.

LW: Would like this to be with members as soon as possible.

DJu: Has GM not responded to the request for comment?

GM: We have not had a Training Committee meeting yet, so has been unable to comment so far. Personally GM has no problems with it, and will circulate it to Training Committee members.

LW: We are currently not handing out the old book, so at present we have no advice available. This means this document is badly needed.

a. **Webmaster's Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

b. **Newsletter Editor's Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

LW: MC intends resigning at the next AGM. We need to look for someone.

c. **Handbook Editor's Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

Proposal: ***To accept Publications & Information Officer's Report.***

Prop: FLi Sec: MW *agreed unanimously*

13. **Legal & Insurance Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

DJu: Is there something in the pipeline on lessons to be learned from the Manchester Hole case?

GM: No.

DJu: Feels strongly that the Radon Booklet should be included in the 3rd Edition of Legal Issues. It is important because it shows landowners that we care about such matters and that we keep it under constant review.

BM: In terms of putting the Radon booklet in there, that is fine, but we need it on the Web as soon as possible.

LW: Thinks that you should certainly include the legal stuff, but sees no need for the data and results to be in there.

BM: Once we have finished the consultation, then we can publish online and also publish print to order.

DC: As Treasurer it is much easier administratively if it isn't published jointly by BCA and BCRA.

GJ: Why is there a reference to Robinson's Pot in your report? CNCC sorted it out.

EL: It was the first usage of the National Trust local agreement and we were approached by Ric Halliwell to assist.

Proposal: ***To accept Legal & Insurance Officer's Report.***

Prop: LW, Sec: CF *agreed unanimously*

14. **Youth & Development Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

EP: There doesn't seem to have been any follow-up on the Outdoor Show. Names and addresses were taken, but to EP's knowledge nothing has been done with the list to date. **Action: JC to circulate list of interested people from Outdoor Show.**

Proposal: ***To accept Youth & Development Officer's Report.***

Prop: BM Sec: LW *agreed unanimously*

Other Reports

15. **Membership Administrator's Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

SH: Appreciation from members about how efficient the renewals system is.

FLi: Likewise.

LW: The general consensus seems to be that we have a small growth in membership across the board.

CF: There are 155 Clubs so far in 2011 as against 166 in 2010. Is that because people haven't managed to renew yet, or are some clubs folding?

GJ: Can't say here and now.

MD: There also appears to be a drop in BCRA membership.

Proposal: ***To accept Membership Administrator's Report.***

Prop: NW, Sec: JP *agreed unanimously*

16. **Insurance Manager's Report**

NW: Another year of a smoothly functioning PL scheme and membership function, thanks in no small part to the efforts of Glenn Jones and Katie Dent. I would also like to acknowledge the assistance of John Anderson and Linda Ashcroft of our brokers Anderson Ashcroft who have demonstrated a commendable level of customer service and interest in our affairs, both for the PL policy and our general insurance.

It is worth recording that there have been no claims in the last 12 months and our underwriter remains committed to the long-term fee arrangement which will keep our premiums stable for at least the next couple of years, so long as there are no claims or major hiatus in the insurance industry. The net effect of this is that I do not expect our premium to rise in the coming year.

Having said this, the pressure to increase the limit of indemnity from the current £2m rises slowly but surely, and I repeat my previous request for Regional Councils to let me know if and when they think this will be worthwhile. Increasing the limit will result in a step change in the premium, but current indications are that this will be well within the capability of our reserves to absorb in the short term.

Travel insurance continues to be a concern, and I have removed BCA's endorsement of the Towergate scheme following concerns about value for money and whether the cover is actually adequate. This is work in progress and I expect to report further to Council in the coming months.

LW: Has the Towergate endorsement been removed from the web?

NW: Yes.

DJu: Do we think we need a L&I meeting?

NW: Possibly, but we might not need to actually meet formally and incur costs. The BPC and Craven PC rely on our policy for the winch meets and this is one of the reasons why we may need to consider raising our indemnity limit to £5m.

GM: We have a professional policy with Jardine Lloyd Thompson and GM has started talking to them about £10m of cover now, not £5m.

EP: The Craven Pothole Club has asked for the level of indemnity to be increased.

BP: What would be the cost implications?

NW: It would add about £7k to a total of about £30k, which works out at about £1 per member.

DJu: In previous discussions we have got around this by pointing out that we do not hold large “events” apart from HE, which has a separate Policy.

FLi: Has had an exclusion added to her Life Insurance policy for caving-related claims. Do we know of any caver-friendly brokers?

NW: We endorse the services provided by Sports Financial Services Ltd. Details are in the latest Descent.

Action: NW to write to RCCs and ask them for their views on increasing to £5m.

Proposal: **To accept the Insurance Manager’s Report.**

Prop: BP, Sec: JP *agreed unanimously*

17. **Radon Working Party Convenor’s Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

CF: Do we want to publicise radon more?

LW: No.

Proposal: **To accept the Radon Working Party Convenor’s Report.**

Prop: LW, Sec: FL *agreed unanimously*

18. **Cave Registry Coordinator’s Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

DC: Now has a CNCC contact in addition to those listed in his written report, which is great.

Proposal: **To accept the Cave Registry Coordinator’s Report.**

Prop: GJ Sec: MW *agreed unanimously*

19. **International Representative’s Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

AE: There will be an advert for Brno 2013 in the Handbook. Organising the congress has been AE’s main area of work over the last year.

a) **FSE Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

GC: Euro-Speleo Projects take-up has not improved. We need to do some more work on this.

DJu: Do the FSE know that the Spanish event is clashing with Hidden Earth? We ought to make sure they know they are clashing in the future.

GC: No. (Chairman’s note: I have told them several times.)

GC: FSE haven’t yet agreed to the 2016 congress, because they would like other countries to have the chance to put a counter proposal. The decision will be made either in July or Malaga in September.

GJ: Attended the Rhône-Alpes conference two weeks ago. It was a fantastic event. GJ wonders if we should do something similar.

Proposal: **To accept International Representatives’ Reports.**

Prop: DCh, Sec: LW *agreed unanimously*

20. **Media-Liaison Officer’s Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

AE: Choosing a logo can be dealt with by the Council meeting following this one.

Proposal: **To accept Media-Liaison Officer’s Reports.**

Prop: LW, Sec: DJu *agreed unanimously*

21. **British Caving Library** (*written report previously circulated*)

Proposal: **To accept British Caving Library Report.**

Prop: BM, Sec: LW *agreed unanimously*

21. **Reports from BCRA, Regional Councils etc**

a) **BCRA:**

DCh: We have had three Field Meetings this year (in Wales, Yorkshire Dales & Peak District). These have been very successful and if anybody has any ideas on future Field Meetings, they would be much appreciated.

DC: Maybe run on a Friday because it’s easier for those who work to take a long weekend.

AE: Suggests that an academic one be run on a Friday with a less-academic one on the Saturday for ordinary cavers.

AE: Would like people to consider over lunch the idea that next year’s AGM be run over a weekend with a light cave-

science meeting on the Saturday, followed by a BBQ on the Saturday evening and then an AGM on the Sunday.

22. Election of Officers

- 22.1 Treasurer: Paul Ibberson *elected unopposed.*
- 22.2 Equipment & Techniques Officer: Nick Williams (Prop: JP, Sec: LW) *elected unopposed.*
- 22.3 Publications & Information Officer: Les Williams *elected unopposed*
- 22.4 2 Club Representatives: Bernie Woodley & Emma Porter *elected unopposed*
- 22.5 2 Individual Member Representatives: Mick Day & David Cooke *elected unopposed*
- 22.6 Honorary President: Mick Day *prop: BCA Council*

Proposal: *That BCA pays the Honorary President's Membership fee for the years in which they hold the post.*

Prop: BM Sec: DW *agreed unanimously*

23. Other Matters

24. Appointment of Auditor

DC: Suggests this is addressed by Council and the new Treasurer. The current Auditor is happy to continue.

25. Date of 2012 AGM

This will be the morning of 10th June with a light cave science meeting on the Saturday, followed by a BBQ in the evening. It will probably take place in Derbyshire, but this will be confirmed.

26. Any Other Business

DW: Over lunch we have noticed that last AGM's Minutes have both Fleur and Faye with the same initials. DW seeks approval to amend the approved Minutes to clear up this confusion.

26.1 Discussion Paper on Possible Changes to BCA Structure

AE: The idea is that we are today launching a consultation process and are asking people to give us suggestions. We will then update Council at each subsequent meeting this year on progress with this.

Meeting ended: 14:30