

**The British Caving Association
Minutes of the Equipment and Techniques Committee**

Date: 10th October 2009

Location: The Dudley Caving Club Windmill

Attendees: Glenn Jones (GJ - caretaker Convenor), Les Sykes (LS), Andrew Atkinson (AA), Andy Pryke (AP), Stephan Natynczuk (SN)

1.0 Apologies:

Bob Mehew, Bob Dearman, Jules Barrett, Dewi Lloyd, Roger King, Charlie Milton

2.0 Agree minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the March 21st 2009 meeting were agreed.

3.0 Actions 3 and 4 were taken together.

4.0 Outstanding Actions from Minutes of 21st March 2009

Action 081108.1 - NW volunteered to provide a report on the QC system.

Update: NW has spoken with Jonathan Sims about the QC system and has agreed a procedure which Jonathon will write up and NW will approve. Anyone who wants an input to this once it is drafted and before it is finalised should contact NW

Action 081108.4 - NW should negotiate for purchase of 500 / 1000 anchors if price is acceptable.

UPDATE: Jonathan has set a price of GBP 2 per anchor. NW has told him that we will take 1000 on that basis, but if the Committee feels that this is excessive then we will not need to pay for the full quantity in one go.

The meeting agreed to the purchase of 1,000 anchors

No	Action	Owner	Action Date	Status
3.1.1	NW to authorise purchase of 1,000 anchors	NW	By next meeting	Ongoing

NW also noted that Jonathan has said that he will donate any profit from the sale of these anchors back to BCA, but he wants to set a realistic price so that if he gets the opportunity to sell them elsewhere he can do so. He has in mind the climbing market. NW will suggest to him that he should not sell them directly or indirectly to cavers if the Committee feels this is desirable, although ultimately this will be up to him.

The E&T Committee agree that the anchors should not be available to cavers as their uniqueness is key to the BCA anchor programme.

NW also reported that anchors supplied to BCA will be laser etched. The next batch will be marked "BCA 002". Anchors sold elsewhere will be given a different marking

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so even if some do fall into the hands of cavers we will be able to identify which ones are BCA's

Action 081108.6 – BM to confirm A Pryke is still contact for DCUC anchors.

CONFIRMED BY DEFAULT (no reply from DCUC)

UPDATE FROM DCUC 07/10/09: As Andy Pryke has moved out of the DCUC area, Roger King is now the DCUC rep.

Action 090321.1 – BM to obtain several quotes for next meeting on alternative axial pull testers. **ONGOING**

Action 090321.5 – BM to remove discussion document and related material from the web site. **NOT ACTIONED AS YET**

5.0 ***Brief update on revalidation workshop and confirmation of valid anchor installers by region***

There was an anchor installer revalidation workshop held in Ingleton on Saturday June 6th. GJ gave a brief update on the status of currently accredited installers by Regional Caving Council:

DCA: 2

CNCC: 6

CCC: 1

DCUC: 1

6.0 ***Additional anchor installer training - nominations from RCCs***

GJ reported that DCUC have nominated Roger King and Dave Warne for training and CNCC have nominated Adam Collinge (and an other?)

With regards to DCUC training, there was a query whether the PLI cover included anchors installed in substrates other than limestone. GJ to confirm with NW

No	Action	Owner	Action Date	Status
6.1.1	GJ to contact DCUC to arrange suitable location for training	GJ	By next meeting	Ongoing
6.1.2	LS to contact Adam Collinge (and an other?) and liaise with DCUC/GJ for training	LS	By next meeting	Ongoing
6.1.3	GJ to check with NW if PLI cover includes substrates other than limestone and if there is a specific clause for anchor installers within the policy	GJ	By next meeting	Ongoing

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7.0 Review and discuss CSCC concerns document

This was the main business of the day and a considerable time was spent discussing CSCC's document. Thanks go to Bob Dearman and Jules Barrett for submitting comments by email. The comments of this committee are appended to these minutes.

8.0 2009 Budget review and 2010 Budget

The 2009 E&T budget is £4,000.00. To date the spend appears to be:
£279.52 – Hilti drill bits

£24.75 – postage for sending Hilti drill to Scotland

£153 – Anchor revalidation workshop fees

We do not know the cost of the initial batch of 200 PECO anchors

Travel claims are unknown as they are now made direct to the Treasurer

There may be further expenses for resin

2009/2010 spend

1,000 PECO anchors at £2.00 each

New drill - £700.00

New battery for Ivan – quote needed.

Other items in the 2009 budget need to be quantified.

No	Action	Owner	Action Date	Status
7.1.1	LS to confirm costs for drill and batteries	LS	By next meeting	Ongoing
7.1.2	Nick Williams to proceed with anchor order	NW	By next meeting	Ongoing
7.1.3	Nick Williams to confirm cost of initial 200 anchors	NW	By next meeting	Ongoing
7.1.4	Bob Mehew to confirm Rope Test spend	RM	By next meeting	Ongoing
7.1.5	Bob Mehew to confirm any costs for repairs to Rope Test rig	RM	By next meeting	Ongoing

9.0 Nominations for E&T Convenor

Les Sykes has volunteered to be the next E&T convenor subject to ratification at the next BCA meeting.

10.0 DCUC update

DCUC have now confirmed that Roger King is the DCUC representative.

Andy Pryke has been accepted as club rep, representing Speleo Vercors.

11.0 Rope Testing

It was agreed that we need to review the aims and objectives for rope testing.

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No	Action	Owner	Action Date	Status
11.1.1	AA to circulate his previous paper on rope testing	AA	By next meeting	Ongoing
11.1.2	All: brain storm ideas for rope testing	All	By next meeting	Ongoing

12.0 Fixed Aids

There was a brief discussion on fixed aids, but with time running out we agreed that AP should own this action and AP agreed to review the current draft document on Fixed Aids and report back to the next meeting

No	Action	Owner	Action Date	Status
12.1.1	AP to review current Fixed Aids document	AP	By next meeting	Ongoing

13.0 AOB – Next Meeting

No aob had been submitted. The meeting agreed that the Windmill was a convenient location and that the next meeting will be on Saturday January 23rd 2010, 10.30 – 15.30 at Dudley Caving Clubs Windmill.

List of Potential Attendees

Bob Mehew	Rope Testing Officer
Bob Dearman	DCA/Coop
Les Sykes	CNCC
Glenn Jones	CNCC/caretaker Convenor
D Lloyd	N Wales
Andy Pryke	Club rep (Speleo Vercors)
Roger King	DCUC
Jules Barrett	DCA
Andy Lewington	CCC
Andrew Atkinson	CSCC
Nick Williams	Coop
Stephan Natynczuk	ACI
Charlie Milton	Coop
Graham Mollard	Training
Brian Jopling	BCRC
CDG	
BCRA	
CHECC	
FoD	
Pengelly	
NAMHO	