

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 30th of April 2011.

1. Apologies for absence

11/A1. A. Burrows, J. Burrows, L. Cardy, J. Carter, L. das Neves, S. Davies, L. Galpin, K. Groves, M. Groves, A. Hallihan, P. Hobson, L. Hawes, A. Lewingdon, E. Jones, G Jones, J. Potts, C. Richardson, M. Teeuwissen.

There were 77 voting Members and 1 Provisional Member signed in – see archived sheets.

In the absence of the Secretary, it was agreed that C. Friend take the Minutes of the AGM.

2. The Chairman's welcome and comments on 2010/2011

11/A2. The Chairman thanked everyone and welcomed those present and went on to deliver a robust chairman's address.

3. Minutes of the 1st May 2010 AGM

11/A3a. The Chairman invited the proposal that the minutes of the 2010 AGM might be taken as read. Proposed by A. Richardson and Seconded by B. Jopling.

Majority For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention – Carried

11/A3b. The Chairman then suggested that the minutes be signed as an accurate record with any identified corrections inserted. Proposed by B. Potts and Seconded by C. Pepper.

Majority For, 0 Against, 2 Abstentions - Carried

11/A3c. Corrections to the 2010 Minutes:
There were no corrections.

4. Matters arising from the 2010 AGM Minutes

11/A4. There were no matters arising.

5. Officers' Reports to the 2011 AGM

11/A5a. The Chairman checked that the Equipment Officer's report had been distributed. He then suggested that the reports be taken as read. Proposed by D. Edwards and Seconded by S. Moore.

Unanimous For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions - Carried

11/A5b. The motion was then put to take the Officers' Reports *en bloc*, with any questions would be directed to the individuals concerned. Proposed by B. Jopling and Seconded by C. Pepper.

Majority For, 1 Against, 0 Abstentions - Carried

Questions to Officers

11/A6. Secretary

P. Hallihan referred to the point raised in the report over whether the AGM Minutes could be sent out by eMail. He asked if '... in writing...' could be interpreted to include eMail. Debate followed whether this was Constitutional, as there are Members without eMail. R. Radcliff expressed the view that it was important that the AGM Minutes need proper notification. A. Richardson suggested that the incoming Committee look at all ways to reduce the postage bill.

S. Moore then Proposed that "The '... in writing...' wording of the Constitution can be interpreted to include eMail", Seconded by J. Rowland.

Majority For, 2 Against, 3 Abstentions - Carried

11/A7. Treasurer

B. Jopling asked why no list of payments paid out to Members had been included in the Financial Summary of the accounts. The Treasurer replied that there had been none.

11/A8. Warden

There were no questions from the Members at the meeting.

11/A9. Conservation Officer

There were no questions from the Members at the meeting.

11/A10. Training Officer

There were no questions from the Members at the meeting.

10/A11. Assistant Secretary

There were no questions from the Members at the meeting.

11/A12. Records

There were no questions from the Members at the meeting.

11/A13 Fixed Aids

There were no questions from the Members at the meeting.

11/A14. Equipment Officer

B. Jopling asked about the disposal of out of date SRT rope. He argued that if we are concerned about fire safety in the cottages we should also be concerned about the life of SRT rope. P. Meredith replied that was the whole point of his report. There was general agreement over the proposal in the report.

G. Edwards pointed out that only £25 had been spent on equipment. There was then discussion over 'disappearing' items. P. Meredith said that he had adopted the view that these losses were inevitable and kit such as maillons could be treated as consumables.

In line with P. Meredith's proposal, P. Hallihan suggested that the incoming Equipment Officer spends what is required to bring the rope stores up to specification.

Majority For, 0 Against, 2 Abstentions - Carried

11/A15. Rescue Liaison Officer

There were no questions from the Members at the meeting.

11/A16. Communications

There were no questions from the Members at the meeting.

11/A17. Editor

There were no questions from the Members at the meeting.

6. Auditor's Report

11/A18. K. Maddocks explained that he was unable to confirm the accounts because a statement from the bank had not been issued. A. Freem clarified that it was the Deposit Account that cannot be clarified until the statement arrived. K. Maddocks explained that he was happy to write that the accounts were in order subject to sight of the statement and that it was satisfactory. It was Proposed by J. Lister and Seconded by P. Francis, that the Auditor's Report be accepted.

Majority For, 0 Against, 1 Abstentions - Carried

7. Subscriptions and Hut fees

11/A19. The Treasurer summarised his views and drew Members' attention to the problem that external forces control our expenses. He pointed out that we have no depreciation of equipment and everything is replaced when needed rather than on a budget. Replacement thus never comes into any financial planning, and indeed may never enter into it. He quoted rope and the boiler as an example and coping with this makes life difficult for any

Treasurer. The Treasurer then drew Members' attention to his table and went on to say that there are some important decisions to be made. This generated considerable discussion

A. Dobson asked about the impact of the decisions on the Hut Strategy might affect the setting of income levels. We are making a decision on income before we know what we want the Cottages to be. The Treasurer agreed that there could be implications, but the income problem still existed irrespective of the decisions to be made.

B. Jopling then said that he was in the fortunate position of not having to stay at the Club, but we are clearly down on income. He then explained that many people travel to the Club and did not stay there, but simply used the caves. He suggested that we need to increase the numbers of person/nights as there are times when the Club is underused. P. Meredith pointed out that it was fuel costs that dictated what people did, not the cost of staying at the Club. This opinion was backed up by several Members during the discussion. K. Goodhead enquired about guidance for the maximum number of visitors to be booked in.

A. Maddocks summarised that there were two different points being discussed, the level of income and the use of the Cottages. The fees are cheap compared with other hostels. Several Members pointed out that other huts and camping grounds charged more. This generated discussion over the balance of visitors and the numbers of Members. It was agreed that we should try to encourage more Members to use the Cottages. B. Jopling suggested as we had done previously, that we should lower fees and C. Friend countered and said that this would not generate increased income, which the Treasurer needed. It is outside costs that we are reacting to. The Chairman then explained what other clubs were charging for use of their huts. B. Potts backed this up as he organised weekends for another club. To stay elsewhere was more expensive than SWCC.

G. Vaughan observed that we have a boom and bust aspect to the usage of the cottages and we need to try to level this out. There was general agreement that Committee weekends are the busiest with slack weeks in between. E. Little and others handling keys backed this view.

D. Edwards and B. Clipstone summarised everything by reiterating that the fuel costs now dictate how frequently people come to the Club. The Hut Fees for staying in the cottages do not enter into the equation. B. Clipstone said for the DO it cannot be Hut Fees that is the deciding factor as they are exempt from them. It was clear that Hut Fees have to go up simply to pay for the gas and electricity that is used in running the cottages, irrespective of how many people are staying.

P. Hallihan first Proposed "that the AGM accept the minimum increases in the Treasure's report" and was Seconded by P. Francis. He then raised the problem of the contribution of campers. The Treasurer stated that it was

difficult because to claim the 50p reduction they cannot use the facilities, but this is impracticable. Therefore, the report recommends that all campers pay the same fee as those staying inside. There was no dissent from this view. P. Dennis suggested that putting fees up versus losing visitors was a case of 'who blinks first'. The Chairman said that he had obtained prices charged by other clubs and we were not expensive and that there was a reluctance to put up hut fees in other clubs. Several Members again expressed the opinion that, in comparison with other huts, the fees that SWCC charge are low and that other clubs are improving their facilities.

S. Moore then brought up the application of Hut Fees in 'use of the cottages' vs. bed-nights. This generated much discussion, but whilst some felt that the interpretation was wrong, in the end it was accepted that the long term interpretation would be difficult to enforce. It was accepted that the 24hr period started on arrival and ended on departure.

The Treasurer explained that the Hut Sheets have been very difficult to reconcile because there was no Duty Officer. The DO is vital in income generation for the Club. He indicated that there were at least 4 weekends when full payments have probably not been made. This generated substantial discussion over the DO system and its operation. B. Jopling, and G. Vaughan as the administrator of the system, both said that if the Membership does not sign up to it, the system cannot work. He stated that there are a large number of Members who do not do their duty and are not playing the game. C. Friend said that in the past DO were appointed a year in advance and that it was a responsibility to the Club that Members did the job. G. Vaughan confirmed that it is a duty, not a request that Members act as DO.

F. Levett then said that there had been some "mission creep" and whilst realising that everything is linked, we need to get back to the subject.

P. Hallihan reminded the AGM that a Proposal for the minimum increase was already tabled.

C. Garman indicated that we need to clarify the timings of the Hut Fees and then A. Dobson summarised what had happened in the past. Guest fees were double Members' rates. This ratio is now changing. We are putting up Guest rates at a lower percentage than for Members.

A. Richardson then Proposed "The AGM adopts the higher of the recommendations in the Treasurer's report" and was Seconded by P. Meredith.

The Chairman then said that we already had two proposals and asked P. Hallihan to repeat his Proposal. P. Hallihan indicated that, on a personal basis, increases in costs hit him as a family of four and Proposed "that the AGM accept the minimum fee increases in the Treasurer's report" and was Seconded by P. Francis.

There was then debate as to how the two proposals be voted on.

G. Vaughan suggested that there be a simple show of hands, no vote.

B. Hall then asked have we agreed to increase the fees or not?

L. Williams then wanted discussion on the proper application of charging Hut Fees. The Treasurer confirmed that proper application would have a positive effect. B. Jopling then indicated that we should leave Hut Fees as they are, as we can afford not to increase them.

Further discussion led to the Proposal by B. Hall, “Does SWCC increase its Hut Fees?” and was Seconded by G. Vaughan.

Majority For, 5 Against, 7 Abstentions – Carried

There was then some discussion over how to cope with the two proposals and it was agreed to have a show of hands.

a) The minimum option had 26 For,

b) The market realistic option had 28 For.

There were 13 Abstentions.

G. Vaughan then pointed out that he had abstained as he was unhappy with both options and asked for the differential between the Members and Guest rates be re-established and Proposed “£3 for Members, £6 Guests and £5 for pre-booked student groups” and was seconded by S. Moore.

There was then more discussion over how to increase the fees. The Treasurer initiated further discussion on using whole figures, but expressed concerns over Guests at £6. He also suggested that we do need to encourage more Members to stay. Discussion was cut short by the Chairman saying that we need to consider Hut Fees irrespective of what transpires from the later Forward Strategy debate.

The G. Vaughan Proposal was then voted on:

25 For, 18 Against, 26 Abstentions – Carried

Further discussions followed and the Treasurer indicated that he had thought of introducing any rise in two stages, so that any impact may be evaluated. So 6 months later the Committee could make an informed decision. The Treasurer was going to propose the lower recommendation with a review. He pointed out that once you get to the gravel track price changes still apply.

B. Jopling then expressed the view that he was against any price increase, but was content with a review. A Proposal was then made by the Treasurer and Seconded by B. Jopling that “The minimum fee increase be implemented to be reviewed in 6 months”. Because there already was a carried vote, this was deemed inappropriate. The Treasurer then agreed that we could review the Vaughan proposal and see if that generated sufficient change in the income.

G. Vaughan agreed and M. Day Proposed “That the voted Hut Fees increase £3 Membes, £6 Non-members, be implemented in two stages” and was Seconded by J. Day.

29 For, 16 Against, 20 Abstentions – Carried

R. Radcliff then asked that special consideration be given to the Army. The Treasurer confirmed that they do have a special negotiated rate and this will not change at present.

D. Edwards then pointed out that a notice is needed to explain the 24 rule and the shower box needs better positioning and proper monitoring. The Treasurer responded that the shower box is sometimes not used and it is down to DOs. The fee for non-residents using the facilities is now £1 and this will be publicised. There was then much further discussion on the DO system and B. Jopling expressed the view that the point made earlier by C. Friend should be implemented. Emphasis needs to be given to the fact that it is duty of Members to act as the DO and Members need to be allocated a day if they will not choose one voluntarily. There was general agreement with this suggestion.

J. Wellbelove then indicated that more publicity was needed regarding what you are paying for in Hut Fees. The Chairman pointed out that we do rely upon the honesty of Members and that if you arrive on a Saturday morning to stay until Sunday night, you are in for two days. E. Little suggested that, rather than be coerced, people need to feel guilty if they cannot do their DO stint. She suggested two people be allocated a turn at duty officer for each weekend and that the onus is on a person to replace themselves if they cannot do it. G. Vaughan indicated that this was an excellent proposal and that we already have the concept of two sharing a weekend.

The Treasurer said that new Hut Sheets had been tested and that modifications would be made to the layout to help everyone. The Hut Sheets are also the record that would be used in case of fire so they need to be filled in properly.

H. Meredith suggested that time of arrival is on the Hut Sheets. The Treasurer confirmed this.

C. Garman then indicated that it would be good if people could continue to request a particular weekend to take a turn at Duty Officer. G. Vaughan confirmed this and said that it was easiest for him to continue with that rather than to start allotting days to the whole club. It was suggested that if you had not done DO in the last two years you should be assigned a weekend but those who volunteered could choose their own weekend as with the current system. There was general agreement on this suggestion and the Chairman recorded that the AGM had given that indication.

Further discussion was then started by J. Brunsdon over the application of the 24 hr rule and where payments should be made for Members visiting the Club. T. Lewingdon suggested a weekend fee but there was no support. This generated much discussion and it was agreed that Members visiting the Club and using the facilities pay £1. J. Lister stated that that is what he had always done.

G. Vaughan highlighted the fact that the name of the DO is recorded in the box.

Discussion then turned to the matter of Subscriptions.

The Treasurer then spoke to his recommendations. These were small in percentage terms. The Treasurer expressed concern about retired people and suggested they get a good deal. The discount remains, but it fell upon the Assistant Secretary to administer. P. Cardy got the clarification that joint retired Members was the usual 150% of the single subscription.

The Chairman then Proposed “that the AGM adopt the Treasurer’s recommended subscription increases” and was Seconded by P. Hallihan.

Majority For, 0 Against, 5 Abstentions – Carried

The Treasurer confirmed that PayPal was not yet applicable to subscriptions because of the difficulties in reconciling the data. The Assistant Secretary asked for clarification over the ‘early payment’ scheme and was assured that it was a strict cut off at 2 months.

8. Purchase of land at Y Grithig

11/A20. The Chairman asked the President to explain the current position. F. Levett went on to say that there were two aspects, the information regarding the present situation and a debate over part of the procedure on how we fund the purchase. There has been an agreement to purchase the portion of land including OFD I entrance. F. Levett said that progress has been rather pedestrian, but we are approaching draft contract position. A grant application was submitted to CCW and, if successful, we do not have to take it. A recommendation has gone forward within CCW that SWCC would be offered £5000. F. Levett then summarised possible sources of other funding on the basis that we will pay our solicitor’s fees. The Club could draw all the cost from the reserves, could seek donations from Members and could seek contributions from fund raising, e.g. from other caving clubs. F. Levett indicated that in his view the purchase will go through.

The Chairman then summarised the voluntary donation position, being very encouraging with offers in excess of £10,000. None have been accepted yet until we have had the debate at this AGM.

B. Jopling enquired as to why the purchase was taking so long. T. Baker explained that we had instigated part of the delay because of the CCW grant process and that we had to await that decision. B. Jopling then asked what if we were gazumped? F. Levett emphasised that he was managing the process and if he felt that there was a problem we had a mechanism to buy the land now.

There was then considerable debate over where the payment should be seen to be coming from. D. Edwards asked that the money come out of the reserves.

B. Jopling did not want the money to come from individuals on an anonymous

basis, he proposed that all of the money to come from the Club and any grant we get. Donations can then be asked for other items at a later date.

The Chairman made it clear that any donations would be confidential and that there is no reason for individuals to feel ostracised. P. Collings-Wells then pointed out that, as previously, any donation is what people can afford and could be £10 or £1000. There are also works to be done and things like styles etc will need installing, so a contribution need not be financial.

P. Francis stated that he was Chairman during the previous land purchase and that all donations had remained confidential and that it had worked well.

J. Harvey then asked what exactly are we buying and T. Baker and F. Levett clarified the position. We are purchasing the freehold of a section of land that includes the entrances to Ogof Ffynnon Ddu, Pant Canol and Powell's Cave and overlies much of the cave. The land adjoins that which SWCC already owns. However, the mineral rights are not included as they rest with a third party. The Chairman stated that he had good advice (from L. Mullen (nee Wilson) and D. Judson) that the mineral rights do not mean anything in this context. F. Levett said that he could explain the divorce of the mineral rights from the land, and this was another reason for some of the delay. Using the Coal Board as an example, J. Harvey expressed concern that someone could ask for a fee from us for using the cave. The Chairman said in the opinions he had been given this could not happen. C. Friend then reported that he had had a meeting with the purchaser of the other half of the property and their solicitor was not worried by the rather draconian mineral rights conditions, saying that it was a common feature of all deeds in the area. There had also been legislation that made the operation of some of the conditions very different.

A. Dobson pointed out that however the money is obtained it would be the Club that would be buying the property. B. Jopling insisted that some Members felt ostracised despite the reassurances and did not want to accept the donations.

K. Maddocks was clear in his mind that the Club had managed to inspire Members to get the promises of £10,000 and should accept these donations. Nobody can be embarrassed as nobody knows who has done what.

G. Vaughan then Proposed "that the monies should come from: grant support, then any voluntary donations from Members, then money-raising events, and backing everything using Club funds" and was Seconded by S. Moore. P.

Francis stated that whilst he could not give very much on this occasion he did not feel guilty about it in any way. There was total agreement that a Member should not feel bad about being unable to afford to donate anything or only a small amount. There are plenty of ways of contributing to the Club without donating money.

The Records Officer then suggested that the duplicate books from the Peter Harvey collection could be sold off and the proceeds go into the fund. He also

raised the possibility of selling the rare books as well, as they will deteriorate. This would be a suitable tribute to P. Harvey and a good use of the money. Several Members queried as to whether these were the wishes of P. Harvey and were we selling assets that we need not to. C. Friend argued that the books were given by P. Harvey as a resource for the Club and if we can avoid it they should not be sold. The Chairman confirmed that this was P. Harvey's intention.

B. Jopling Proposed "that the land purchase be funded through any grant and then Club funds. Should money be required for something later on, then the Club can ask for donations" and was Seconded by D. Edwards.

S. Moore suggested that G. Vaughan's proposal be voted on first and pointed out that this was a priority list and proposing that as an amendment. A. Dobson again stated the Club will pay for the land however the money is raised.

G. Vaughan then said the problem was how to allocate the funding. The primary source of funding is any grant, next comes anonymous donations, thirdly any fund raising events and then underpinned by existing Club funds.

B. Jopling did not accept this and G. Vaughan explained the priority of spending the money again.

J. Brunsdon asked what other clubs may get out of contributions? Might they expect preferential treatment, for example? T. Baker said that whilst there had been offers of money none have been followed up as yet.

G. Vaughan then explained that the amendment by S. Moore was that a priority was attached to the source of funds. B. Jopling continued expressing the view that he was still unhappy and wanted the Club to pay.

The Chairman then asked for a vote on the amendment to the Jopling proposal.

Majority For, 7 Against, 9 Abstentions – Carried

The Chairman then asked for a vote on the G. Vaughan proposal.

Majority For, 4 Against, 8 Abstentions – Carried

The meeting was thus agreed that the purchase will be funded through a CCW grant, then voluntary donations and then other sources backed by Club funds.

A. Richardson then asked about selling the valuable books. B. Jopling then Proposed "That the P. Harvey books not be sold off to purchase the land" and was Seconded by K. Maddocks. There was again discussion regarding what P. Harvey's views were and there were clearly doubts in his mind as to how they were to be kept. The Chairman suggested that the fate of the books be a job for the Archive Sub-Committee. I. Miller argued we should keep the books as we can afford the land.

Voting on the Proposal was:

Majority For, 0 Against, 11 Abstentions – Carried

9. HQ Strategy document

11/A21. The Chairman asked F. Levett to summarise the position. F. Levett explained how the small group had been set up and referred Members to the document that had been circulated and the proposals within it. He emphasised that this was the opportunity to decide what SWCC wants the HQ to be. There needed to be a debate about property and the support that it gives the Club.

P. Dobson pointed out that there was no Model 3.5, which would leave the Club where it was.

A. Freem pointed out that the Club moves all the time. What is intended by 'leave it as it is'? The difference between 'doing nothing to the present structure other than keeping it in the same condition' and 'working to stay on a plateau' needed to be established. This links to who we want to attract to the Club.

The debate then attempted to focus on what sort of Club do we want?

G. Amabalino asked what groups do we want to come to the Club? If we have more guests we need a more robust DO system.

B. Clipstone said that there are two issues, what groups do we have at the Club dictates what we do to it in terms of improvements.

A short debate over the impact of the DO system was cut short by B.

Clipstone, who pointed out that the DO system is irrelevant to the position we want the Club to be in with Members vs. guests.

D. Edwards stated that when the cottages started they were filthy and the Club had a terrific atmosphere, now it is clean(ish), subject to regulation, e.g. fire doors, it is sterile with no atmosphere. G. Vaughan said that we are a Club and we can go where we want to go. P. Quill said does everyone realise the consequences if we go one step too far, e.g. getting involved with building regulations. B. Clipstone stated that SWCC is a hostel, whether Members like it or not, and that comes with legal requirements. J. Lister pointed out that legal requirements are legal requirements and we cannot get out of them. G. Vaughan explained that money was not important, he came to the Club for its ethos, and how much of this would it cost to change the nature of the Club?

B. Jopling re-emphasised the debate is about what we want the Club to be. He then outlined several money-making routes with weekday users and more groups at weekends. How posh do we want the Club to be for Members? There was general agreement that the balance between these things is important and that the 5star option was not what was wanted.

A. Dobson, warned that whilst we may want to go down a route of Members and their guests, we must not cut off visiting caving clubs.

G. Christian said that we should not be worried about the building inspectors. The Penwyllt Inn has been successfully refurbished with the help of the inspector. The current Club refurbishments are done to the best standards that

we can manage, to understandings of what building regulations are. All new works look

New until they have ‘weathered’ in, but the standard needs to be high.

B. Jopling said that he agreed with doing work to a high standard. He went on to say “Visiting clubs left the place spotless, after you lot have left the place is a mess”.

P. Francis drew attention to the Constitution and the objects of the Club. He suggested that we have turned into a building club.

Discussion then went through the history of the Club. The property was there to support caving and as the Club grew it moved to the present premises.

The Chairman then asked for a proposal to be made

J. Day asked about the data collected from the survey. G. Vaughan said that he had collated the 22 responses but had neglected to bring the data. He said that the scores were Option 1 scored <1, Option 2 scored 4.5, Option 3 scored 8.5, Option 4 scored 4.5, Options 5 scored 0.

A. Maddocks said that Option 3 was the most attractive but it also gave a marker as to what needs to change. P. Hallihan then said that there are two distinct parts, first, who do we want in the Club and second, what have we to do to accommodate those groups. He then Proposed “the club stays as it is, primarily for Members and guests and visiting caving clubs” and was Seconded by T. Lewingdon.

F. Levett summed up and said that if we want Members, their guests and visiting caving clubs, once we make the decision, certain things then can flow from it.

K. Goodhead said that over the last 5 years non-caving visitors, including the Army, amounted to approximately 15% of the income. This visitor usage is very variable and cannot be predicted. He said he would be happy to continue doing bookings, but needed to know the difference between the Army and a mid-week DoE group who do not use the main Club facilities. B. Jopling then asked do we accept, for example, a canoe club if we have to increase and improve the facilities to accommodate them? The answer is ‘no’, we do not need them. Equally, if a group camps they are not requiring extra facilities and so ‘yes’, they are accepted.

S. Moore said that we should accommodate clubs who require no more than we ourselves require.

A vote was then held on P.Hallihan’s motions which was:

Majority For, 0 Against, 4 Abstentions – Carried

The Club stays roughly as it is at present regarding visitors.

The Chairman then asked for a debate on what we want

B. Jopling thought that it had been covered last year, that WW proposals had to be costed and had to be brought forward to an AGM. This was erroneous,

and the Cottage Sub-Group found this could not be done. F. Levett explained this situation.

K. Goodhead “Proposed to adopt Model 3 with the exception 5.1 bullet point 4 ‘Cavers only Hut’” and was Seconded by P. Hallihan.

D. Edwards indicated that there are things that need doing. B. Clipstone said the changes in No.4 are ending this year and so these new proposals take effect from next WW. B. Potts said that there are some actions that will improve the Club included in Option 3.

P. Francis expressed concern that we will only maintain the structure and not make wholesale changes as had been done to No.4. He said that he would be unhappy if this was to happen again.

S. Moore indicated that the expectations of people move forward and consequently the Club has to move forward. We cannot be rooted in the past yet appeal to new Members who have different values.

P. Collings-Wells urged that we move towards a vote on where we want to be in 5 years time. D. Edwards asked if the Working Group that produced the document is permanent. T. Baker replied that they were only briefed to produce the document for this AGM.

L. Williams then pointed out that a Working Group had been involved with a lot of time spent analysing the problem and had produced a readable document.

The proposal above, that “The AGM accepts Option 3 as the way forward” and was voted on:

Majority For, 0 Against, 8 Abstentions – Carried

10. Policy Document

11/A22. The Chairman introduced the Club Policy Document that has to be ratified each AGM. There have been no changes to it in the last year.

Proposed by S. Mabbett and Seconded by F. Levett that it be ratified.

Unanimous For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions - Carried

F. Levett then pointed out that this document was very useful in assisting with the grant application to CCW.

11. Election of Officers

11/A23. President

There was only one nomination received for election as President:

Fred Levett

Proposed by: C. Friend, J. Brunson, R. Stuart, A. Richardson, G.

Vaughan, C. Vivian

The result of a show of hands was:

Unanimous For, 0 No, 0 Abstentions

As a result of this **Fred Levett** was elected as President of SWCC.

11/A23. Vice Presidents

The 4 Trustees were proposed and seconded *en bloc*.

Les Hawes
John Lister
Alison Maddocks
Clark Friend

Proposed: A. Dobson Seconded: A. Richardson
Majority For, 0 Against, 3 Abstentions – Elected

11/A24. Vice Presidents

The following were proposed:

M. Day

Proposed: D. Edwards Seconded: G. Vaughan
Majority For, 0 Against, 1 Abstentions – Elected

J. Rowland

Proposed: G. Christian Seconded: C. Friend
Majority For, 0 Against, 2 Abstentions – Elected

T. Baker then asked for nominations for the post of Chairman.

11/A25. Chairman Paul Meredith

Proposed: S. Goodhead Seconded: G. Vaughan
Elected

T. Baker then retained the Chair and asked for nominations for the following posts. In each case, only one nomination was received.

11/A26. Secretary Gary Vaughan

Proposed: H. Meredith Seconded: C. Pepper
Elected

11/A27. Treasurer Andy Freem

Proposed: P. Meredith Seconded: J. Day
Elected

11/A28. Warden Brian Clipstone

Proposed: A. Richardson Seconded: P. Collings-
Wells
Elected

11/A29. Conservation Officer Bernie Woodley

Proposed: K. Goodhead Seconded: S. Moore

Elected

11/A30. Training Officer Gareth Edwards
Proposed: B.Jopling Seconded: A. Burrows

Elected

11/A31. Records Officer Allan Richardson
Proposed: V. Allkins Seconded: G. Amabalino

Elected

11/A32. Equipment Officer Piers Hallihan
Proposed: S. Mabbett Seconded: B. Clipstone

Elected

11/A33. Editor Krysia Groves
Proposed: G. Edwards Seconded: C. Pepper

Elected

11/A34. Cave Rescue Liaison Officer P. Hobson
Proposed: P. Hallihan Seconded: B. Jopling

Elected

11/A35. The Chairman then asked for nominations for Four Ordinary Members. Following the proposal of five candidates were proposed:

Peter Collings-Wells

(Proposed: K. Goodhead Seconded: J. Lister)

Les Davies

(Proposed: C. Friend Seconded: J. Day)

Annabel Hallihan

(Proposed: L. Davies Seconded: N. Davies)

Claire Vivian

(Proposed: G. Vaughan Seconded: G. Edwards)

Jill Brunsten

(Proposed: A. Richardson Seconded: P. Francis)

The Chairman proposed that, with the agreement of the AGM, he would like to avoid a ballot. He asked that if Les Davies would accept co-option as Assistant Secretary, the other four would go through. Les Davies was happy with that arrangement and the AGM agreed that this should happen.

There was a suggestion that the position of Meets Officer could be created. The Chairman indicated that this could be left to the incoming Committee.

12. Appointment of Auditor

11/A36. Ken Maddocks was proposed as Auditor by C. Pepper and Seconded by J. Rowland.

Majority For; 0 Against; 1 Abstentions – Carried

13. Any Other Business

11/A37. New Members

G. Amabalino raised the problem of attracting new Members. He advocated closer links to the university clubs that visit and Proposed “that the Committee look into outreaching to university clubs with a view to recruiting new Members” and was Seconded by G. Edwards.

There was little discussion and the vote was

Majority For; 0 Against; 2 Abstentions – Carried

11/A38. Hut Cleaning

A. Richardson stated that hiring the professional cleaner for the kitchens had worked very well. This has provided a good baseline for the cleanliness of the HQ, can we now consider extending this to the toilet facilities? J. Day clarified the duties of the cleaner and the Treasurer confirmed there was a cost implication £70/event. C. Friend then indicated that it would be cheaper to give a Member a free weekend to clean the toilets. This was met with objections and C. Friend then said that, in a nutshell was why the Club was dirty. The Treasurer said that he could not state the hours that the cleaning event covered and J. Day indicated that she fits us in around other duties. M. Day then said that he cleans the toilets on a regular basis, but they become dirty very quickly. They either need to be cleaned every day or we go back to where we were.

There was agreement we should try the extended cleaning duties.

11/A39. Sewage

G. Christian commented on the position of the day before when the Warden was discovered frantically attempting to rod an overflowing sewage system. He asked about creating a Septic Tank Maintenance Schedule, as has been requested for the Penwyllt Inn. If we can provide him with the size of tank he would make up a pumping chart. B. Clipstone replied that the details were around.

11/A40. D. Dobson made an enquiry as to the health of Mary Hazelton’s dragon. The Records Officer assured the Meeting that it was sleeping soundly in its usual place and was in good health.

11/A41. Hut Sheets

A. Freem had trialled new Hut Sheets and said that only 1% had filled them out completely. He requested that people fill them out properly. He asked if the 'Task List' was useful?

G. Edwards said that it should be mandatory to fill them out. It was useful to the DOs and helped the overall management.

A. Freem then asked did it really work? It was emphasised that it is already the DOs job to persuade Members to do jobs in the HQ. There was agreement that the 'Jobs list' be left on as an aid.

11/A42. *Rattus norvegicus*

A. Richardson enquired as to the status of the *R. norvegicus* problem at the Club. The Warden replied that presently it was under control. There is a long term plan to eradicate them.

11/A43. Dogs

L. Williams asked about the construction of some kennels for dogs adjacent to the Washdown Area. The kennels would be supplied by the dog owners. This generated much discussion and B. Jopling stated that when he brought his dogs to the Club they stayed in his car. Particular concern was expressed over who was to keep the kennels cleaned out. There was also concern over the noise that four caged canines would make. L. Williams confirmed that the kennels would be built at no cost to the Club and Proposed "that the dog owners be allowed to construct 4 kennels at their own expense and kept clean" and was Seconded by J. Brunson:

9 For; 14 Against; Most Abstentions – Defeated

L. Williams then said that the dogs would be left running about.

R. Radcliff then asked for a show of hands on the suggestion that dogs not be allowed in the HQ at all. 11 Members indicated that they agreed with this view.

11/A44. Votes of Thanks

P. Collings-Wells proposed a vote of thanks to T. Baker for taking on the extra year as Chairman.

T. Lister proposed a vote of thanks to L. das Neves for taking on the role of Secretary for the year.

14. Time and Venue for 2012 AGM

11/A45. The 2012 AGM will be held on Saturday the 5th of May. It was Proposed by T. Baker and Seconded by C. Friend, that it be at 9.00 a.m., at a venue to be advised (suggested to be at the Miners' Welfare, Abercraf). The Committee would confirm the venue at a later date.

Majority For; 3 Against; 0 Abstentions – Carried

11/A46. There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Clark Friend, 09/05/2011