



Minutes of the 2008 AGM

*Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the British Cave Research Association
held on Saturday 27 September 2008 at 17.00 at Prince Henry's Grammar School, Otley, West Yorkshire.*

The meeting was declared quorate with twenty two members attending.

1 Appointment of Recorder

The Honorary Secretary, Ursula Collie, was appointed as recorder of the 2008 AGM.

2. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

3. Minutes of Previous AGM

It was PROPOSED by Allan Richardson and SECONDED by Trevor Faulkner that:-

- *The Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 22nd September 2007 at Tewkesbury School, Tewkesbury, Gloucester, be approved.*
- *Glenn Jones commented that his name had been mis-spelt as "Glynn" in the Minutes. This will be amended.*

The motion was passed unanimously.

4. Matters arising

Concern had been expressed at the 2007 AGM over the fact that funds received from members who were paying under "old" standing orders were being treated as donations for the charitable purposes of BCRA because there was no way of tracing the payers to ask them to stop the payment. In order to deal with this we will close our account at the end of this year, which means that the standing orders will be returned to the payers and a new account will be opened.

5. Council Report

The Chairman referred to his published report.

It was PROPOSED by Trevor Faulkner and SECONDED by John Wilcock that

- *The report of Council be approved*

The motion was passed unanimously.

6. Income and Expenditure Accounts

The Treasurer referred to his published accounts.

He commented that the year-end had been changed to December to align with BCA. There had been a small surplus which arose partly because Hidden Earth had made a profit and partly from donations from standing orders. We had caught up with claiming gift aid on donations. The Balcombe legacy had not yet been spent. However, heavy expenditure will be incurred during 2008. This mainly comprises the funding of the library, but grants similar to those made last year are anticipated to continue into 2008. For this reason a deficit is expected. The aim has been to try to fund Cave and Karst Science from subscriptions but this is more difficult with a reduced membership.

In the future there will be increasing reliance on donations and legacies to fund Cave and Karst Science, the grants and the library. At the moment we are eating into the funds we have (which is entirely proper because a charity does not exist to make a profit) but there is a need to encourage continuing donations and legacies.

The Chairman commented that there was no room for complacency concerning the low membership.

David Checkley reported at this point concerning the library and in particular that the librarian feels that from early next year we will be able to drop her hours to one day per week. This will cut the wages bill but we will still have the rental of the premises to find. The library software is now installed and we expect to have a web site for the library by the year-end.

Terry Whitaker asked when there would be a catalogue and was told that this will be available when the web site is up and running. Terry Whitaker complimented the library sub-committee on their achievements so far.

Dave Judson also reported at this point on the archive. This is a parallel exercise although he believes more complex. The archive deals with the history of such bodies as BSA, CRG and the BCRA. Bob Mehew asked the Treasurer what was his five-year plan for the organisation's accounts. The Treasurer replied that the present rate of spending on the library, grants and administration would expend our funds within six to seven years. Bob Mehew commented on the necessity to bring in more money. The Treasurer reported that there had been an initiative to be carried out jointly with Ghar Parau and BCA but it was fair to say that this has stalled for the moment. There followed a discussion concerning the costs of maintaining the library and archive.

David Checkley reported on the state of the heritage lottery application, which is that no funds will be available unless the archive materials are to be kept in conditions that conform to British Standard 5454. This is the point of the proposed transfer of the archive to the British Geological Society facility at Keyworth. The lottery funding is particularly targeted on the exercise of digitising the archive.

IT WAS PROPOSED by Terry Whitaker and SECONDED by Dick Willis that

- *The accounts be accepted.*

The motion was carried unanimously.

7. Amendments to Constitution

During extensive discussion several amendments to the schedule of changes were proposed from the floor. The amended schedule is attached to, and forms a part of these minutes.

Under E1a(v) (Honorary Membership), the meeting agreed to delete this proposed amendment from the schedule. Council agreed that this class of membership would be retained to provide a legal basis for the existing Honorary Members. However, Council stated that it does not intend to create any new Honorary Members and would consider recognising members' achievements in other ways.

Under G3 (Membership of Council), Steve Whitlock suggested that Council would review whether all members of Council should continue to be BCRA Trustees.

The meeting also agreed to several minor amendments to the schedule under clauses H1(d), P1, S1, as indicated on the attached schedule.

With the amendments described above, it was PROPOSED by Allan Richardson and SECONDED by Jenny Potts that:

- *The Constitution of the BCRA be amended in the form set out in the amended schedule.*

The motion was passed unanimously.

8. Other motions

There were no other motions.

9. AOB

Glenn Jones mentioned that BCA would set the membership fees for 2009 next week. The BCRA fees are already set.

The Chairman thanked the membership for its attendance and constructive debate.

The meeting closed at 6.30 pm.

*Ursula Collie, BCRA Secretary, 27 September 2008
Trevor Faulkner BCRA Secretary, 26 September 2009*

A. Schedule of Changes to the BCRA Constitution

The document "AGM 2008: Schedule of Changes to the BCRA Constitution", which can be found on the BCRA web site at [bcra.org.uk / agm / 2009](http://bcra.org.uk/agm/2009), is attached to, and forms a part of these minutes.

Last saved as: minutes_for_2008-v3.doc Rev: 2 on 01-Sep-2009 16:58 (fields locked)