

**DCUC**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 2nd February 2026**  
**at the Pengelly Centre, Buckfastleigh, Devon**

Present: Geoff Dommett (in the chair), Richard Vooght, Dave Jean, John Boulton, Ross (Plymouth Uni Adventure and Expo), Monica (Plymouth Uni Adventure and Expo), and Ben Sumpter.

Apologies: Dave Warne, Tara Thomas, Olly Rees and Julian Man

The meeting opened at 19.36

**Acceptance of Previous Minutes**

The minutes of 10th March 2025 were accepted.

**Reports**

**a) Chairman** (*Dave Warne*)

Nothing to Report.

**b) Secretary** (*Richard Vooght*)

Since the last AGM, RV's main aim has been to bring DCUC's paperwork up to date and to open the Committee to other DCUC-affiliated groups.

RV has set up an online storage system for DCUC so every officer can store vital information, such as Past Minutes, financial records, Access Agreements, and bolting paperwork.

RV has also reached out to other DCUC-affiliated groups to invite them to the meeting, as their input is vital not only to DCUC but also to the broader underground community.

Since the last AGM, there have been four committee meetings in March, June, September, and December. During these meetings, several topics were discussed, and I know several officers will address them in their subsequent reports.

RV wanted to thank everyone on the Committee for their support personally; without it, my role as Secretary would be much more challenging. RV would like to stand again for Secretary in 2026, but would appreciate a little help with reminders.

**c) Treasurer** (*Geoff Dommatt*)

We have had income of £515.25 –  
£177.50 for keys  
£2.09 in interest  
£335.66 from BCA – 2024 claim

We have spent £744.07–  
£407.59 for Afton gate (includes £50 annual fee)  
£300.71 for new locks and keys  
£19.92 for securing the fence to Baker's field  
£16.85 for tracked postage to Bakers field owners (no reply)

Bank Balances end of year = £3,427.82  
Current        £3208.74  
Deposit        £219.08 (holding £200 of key deposits)

BCA claim to submit £744.07

2026 budget  
£1000 for 100 bolts @ 100%  
£1500 for C&A @ 100%  
£1500 for C&A @ 50%  
£1000 for Training @ 50%  
£500 for C&A @ 10%

This should give us the bolts we want, plus £2,250 for Great Rock gating, etc., and £500 for training, without having to ask (unless any one project is over £750).

This is the first year that BCA has asked us to accrue for the claim we will submit, to show an actual surplus/deficit for the year.

Accordingly, we spent £744.07, which will all be recovered by our claim.

We had income of £515.25, but this includes £335.66 from the 2024 claim, so the actual result is a SURPLUS of £179.59 from keys and interest.

If the Committee is happy with these accounts, I will have them scrutinised and sent to BCA as our claim for 2025.

I am happy to stand again as Treasurer unless someone else wishes to take on the role.

**d) Access** (*John Boulton*)

In 2025, the Afton Red Rift gate was repaired after its framework had rusted away. JB, with the help of Bob Le Marchant, manufactured and installed a new gate frame in September.

Also in December, JB, with the help of Bob Le Marchant, cleared some of the Beadon Lane entrances at Great Rock Mine.

The Radford Cave key and lock have been replaced because local children damaged the old lock. A spare key and lock have been given to DW, as he lives close to the cave.

In the next month, JB will be organising a working party trip to Penn Recca Slate Mine to clear the top entrance of spoil that has run into the entrance gate. It is also possible to look at the area close to the 'finger recker' passage. This is likely to be around the 8th March, coinciding with the DSS AGM.

JB continues to arrange keys and access to BCA clubs outside the Region for the Caves and Mines, under DCUC access control.

**e) Conservation** (*Tara Thomas*)

Nothing to Report.

It was noted in the meeting that Bunker Hole and Dog Hole need to be re-taped. Both Monica and Ross mentioned that Plymouth Uni would like to help with this. RV also mentioned that he would like help re-taping Reed's.

**f) Equipment** (*Richard Vooght*)

Since the last AGM, BCA has split the Training, Equipment and Techniques working party into two separate working parties. One focuses solely on the BCA Anchor programme, and the other on BCA Training, Equipment, and Techniques. This training is not qualification-based. Pete Knight of DCA now heads the BCA Anchor Programme Working Group. As a result of the split, RV now has to attend twice as many online meetings to keep DCUC in touch with other regions.

Over the year, RV has conducted a general inspection of the bolts DCUC has placed in Devon and has installed bolts in the pull-through at Devon Great Consols.

Since the last AGM, access has been granted to the Penn Recca Slate Mine near Landscope (Ashburton). As a result, the P-Bolts in the Penn Recca shaft now fall within the DCUC bolting programme. They have now been inspected. There is a slight twist on a couple of bolts, but they are still in working order.

RV has added DCUC Bolting records to Google Drive.

RV aims to write a bolting procedure for DCUC, then run training for a couple more bolt installers in our Region.

RV has been in contact with Jim Titt of Bolt Products to determine whether it is possible to purchase 100 A4 stainless bolts, 8 mm thick and 100 mm long.

RV is happy to continue in the role for one more year, but this role, along with the others he holds, is becoming too much. RV is happy to continue for one more year to ensure a smooth handover and replacement.

**g) Training** (*Olly Rees*)

Nothing to Report

**h) Cornish Liaison** (*Ben Sumpter*)

In 2025, the Carbis Bay Crew, in collaboration with a local production company, produced a short film titled 'The Lost Boys of Carbis Bay'. The film premiered at the Kendal Mountain Festival and was shown in cinemas across Cornwall. It was a great success, winning a couple of awards.

Finn Bones of the Carn Brea Mining Society is interested in joining the DCUC Committee to represent his club.

There is a current project at Wheal Bellan near St Just, down near the wagon. It is worth visiting to see what has been done.

Cornwall Mine Register – BS has produced Google Maps of mine adits and shafts located on public-access land. Mine on private land have not been added to prevent trespassing. The next step is to add it to the website, but first, in a private area. BS has been in touch with Josh, the Duchy's mineral agent in Cornwall, who is interested in working with the DCUC to access the Duchy's mines. The aim is to show Josh the Cornwall Mine Register to make him aware of the mines on Duchy land. Once the Duchy is on board with this idea, BS will move on to the National Trust to secure access.

**i) Web Officer's Report** (*Dave Warne*)

Nothing to report.

**j) BCA Report** (*David Jean*)

DJ sent out a summary of the last BCA Meeting.

**k) Club Reps Input** (*Devon Speleo.S. - Keith Pearson, Plymouth C.G. - Richard Vooght*)

Plymouth Uni Adventure and Expo is keen to get more involved with local clubs and work with them on projects such as digging and taping.

**l) Officer Elections**

<b>Post</b>	<b>Nominated</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Seconded</b>	<b>Vote</b>		
				<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
<b>Chairman</b>	Dave Warne	David Jean	John Boulton	7	0	0
<b>Secretary</b>	Richard Vooght	Geoff Dommett	John Boulton	7	0	0
<b>Treasurer</b>	Geoff Dommett	Richard Vooght	John Boulton	7	0	0
<b>Access</b>	John Boulton	Geoff Dommett	Richard Vooght	7	0	0
<b>Conservation</b>	Tara Thomas					
<b>Training</b>	Olly Rees					
<b>Equipment</b>	Richard Vooght					
<b>Cornish Liaison</b>	Ben Sumpter					
<b>BCA Rep</b>	David Jean					
<b>Officers without Portfolio</b>	Keith Pearson					

**m) AOB**

None

**Next DCUC Meeting**

February 2027, at the Pengelly Centre. date and time to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 20:15