



Council of Northern Caving Clubs

AGM 2014

Secretary's report

Back in 1999 in the secretary's report I stated that 10 years was enough; since then I have asked at every AGM for a candidate to take on the role of CNCC Secretary, and now, in 2014 there will be a change. All organisations need change to develop and I think that the person who has made his nomination known to me will enhance the CNCC with his commitment, enthusiasm and new ideas.

On 01 February 2014 I had a long meeting with the BCA secretary to discuss the CNCC/BCA relationship. The BCA secretary then briefed the BCA chairman who said that a further meeting was not required. Both parties are content with the outcomes and we can now all move forward.

As has been mentioned at previous meetings, CNCC does not have a representative on BCA national Council and the AGM needs to consider nominating a representative.

Access Officer's report

As reported in the last committee meeting there has been no further meetings with the Estates regarding Access for Commercial cavers. The support from BCA requested by the September committee meeting has been stated. As a consequence of the September committee meeting vote there is a constitutional amendment for this meeting to consider; if the AGM is in favour this would allow commercial access using the commercial permit made available by the Estate offices which is in addition to the permits made available for recreational cavers.

Despite constant writing and asking I still have not gained access to the closed season on Leck Fell but I am hopeful that we will eventually get access for cavers during April through to June. This is still a priority and I believe that there is sufficient evidence to support the request.

We have an agreement to lay stone (for cavers parking) on the north side of the cattle grid on Leck Fell. I am hopeful that this will be undertaken during the closed season.

The Whelprigg Estate has agreed for CNCC/RRCPC to improve the parking for cavers at the side of the road on the approach to Bull Pot Farm. As with Leck Fell, as CNCC money is being used, there will be signs 'Parking for Cavers only' erected.

A reminder from the last meeting that the entrance to Lancaster Hole will be getting stripped back to bed rock and lined during May 2014. Ray Duffy RRCPC has volunteered to coordinate the reconstruction of the entrance. Please note that NO permits for Lancaster Hole will be issued for the period 30 April 2014 to 01 June 2014 to ensure that the reconstruction work is unhindered and completed on time.

In March 2013 I spoke with both the land agents for Leck and Casterton Fells to discuss the access outlines of the 2016 European Speleological event. Both land agents gave their approval to access for the event. As soon as I have confirmation of details of the event and possible numbers from BCA I will consult all parties to produce a working document on how access will be managed throughout the event.

This is repeated from a previous meeting. There is now a sign warning on the approach to the caves of Nidderdale (Manchester Hole etc) the water authority will bolt on a warning notice on the days of scouring.

CNCC Technical Group

An explanation to avoid any misconception about the group. The group was set up in 1996 and its membership is drawn from active cavers from caving clubs who are interested in the research, testing and development of anchor systems used for accessing caves. It reports to the CNCC committee because even though it is a caving group the work that it undertakes may be of importance to the wider caving community and is the reason why all research, results and conclusions are published on the CNCC web site. The group also sends copies of all its work to the BCA Equipment & Techniques Committee who it also undertakes the testing of anchors on behalf of for discussion if necessary at their meetings.

During 2013 the group has tested a number of anchor test beds including some historical installations to ascertain longevity of the resin and security of the placement; all of these results have been reported to committee meetings and the results and conclusions from the tests are published on the CNCC web site.

The group also produces the rigging guides from which all the proceeds go back into caving to help fund cave conservation and maintenance projects.

The last test bed that was placed was at the request of the BCA E&T committee to ascertain if there was a difference in failure mode between anchors manufactured from 304 and 316 stainless steel when under destruction test conditions; these test results have been sent to BCA E&T and published on the CNCC web site.

BCA Equipment & Techniques Committee

BCA have ordered another batch of Bolt Products anchors manufactured from 316 stainless steel.

It has been agreed that we can replace the defective battery in the BCA drill that CNCC holds.

After this AGM I will be ordering 40 16mm x 150mm drill bits for the anchor placement teams.

Training Officers report

Graham Mollard has continued to attend BCA Training Committee meetings on my behalf; I can't attend because of the day and timing of the meetings. I am liaising with Mick Ellerton from Over & Under CC to arrange training days for cavers.

CNCC volunteers training

A couple of years ago on behalf of CNCC, I signed a business agreement with Natural England. This agreement allowed CNCC to receive funding for expenses and materials from Natural England for conservation projects; however it was restricted to surface work only. Because of the amount of work being undertaken CNCC now has a small army of volunteers. Because of the type of work and in some instances the equipment being used it was decided to provide the appropriate training for the volunteers, effectively giving them the same training that would be expected in the work place.

During 2013 there have been a number of training events run or funded by CNCC. After an initial analysis of their work and the remote locations where the work is undertaken, it was initially decided to provide first aid training; this was followed by Stihl saw training. To be programmed in during 2014 is basic risk assessment training, lifting and moving techniques and manual handling.

All training is recorded so that CNCC can arrange refresher training as required to maintain the volunteer's competence.

Caver training

During July and August there will be caver training days. At present we have not decided what the theme of the training will be, but it will be rope orientated and designed to meet the needs of those attending. Currently Mick Ellerton has offered to help with these training events. It is anticipated that these training days will be free and booking places will be through the CNCC web site.

On 01 February 2014 we ran an anchor installers revalidation course. All the previous anchor installers were invited to attend for revalidation.

On 22 February 2104 the CNCC part funded a paperless surveying course.

Les Sykes

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS
AGM – March 1st 2014

TREASURERS REPORT

Following the agreement by the CNCC committee that the accounts should be verified by a volunteer CNCC member club, rather than pay the increasingly expensive costs of an accountant, Craven PC have volunteered to verify the 2013 accounts for the 2014 AGM. The attached letter from Pat and Ric Halliwell verifies this report as accurate. The process is a little different from that of an auditors report, in that it verifies, by scrutinisation of bank statements, invoices, receipts and working spreadsheet that this report for the 2014 financial year is correct.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME

Balance c/f from 2012		£2845.72
Rigging Guides	£3,123.00	
NECMP Grant	£2,000.00	
Resin & Nozzles	£183.38*	
2012 BCA Annual Funding Grant	£1,246.41	
Conservation Donation	£50.00	
TOTAL INCOME	£6,602.79	

*Resin bought and paid for by SUI

EXPENSES

Meetings (Room Hire)	£104.00
Secretarial, postage & 'phone calls	£215.63
Access & Conservation	£233.96
Rigging Guide Re-print	£1,339.00
NECMP Volunteer Expenses	£2,616.25
Resin & Nozzles	£431.40*
TOTAL EXPENSES	£4,940.24

*Claimed back from BCA (received in January 2014)

Balance c/f to 2014 **£4,508.27**

During January 2012, on the recommendation of Barclays Bank, I transferred the previous high interest account to an account with "better" interest, an Everyday Saver Account. Unfortunately this simple transfer has resulted in three accounts, as the first attempt was transferred to an account in my name (rather than CNCC) which I still have not sorted out.

Everyday Saver Account (G M Jones)

Balance **£1.00**

Business Saver Account (old high interest account)

Balance 1st January 2013 **£186.01**

Interest; £0.08

Balance 31st December 2013 **£186.09**

CNCC HIGH INTEREST ACCOUNT:

Balance 1st January 2013 **£20,123.42**

Interest received: £44.93

Balance 31st December 2013 **£20,168.35**

ASSETS: Makita DPC6430 12" cutter, value new (2013) £576.00

I am prepared to stand as Treasurer for the next 12 months.

Glenn Jones

BCA Grant to Regional Councils: CNCC Claim 2013

The CNCC Treasurer will be submitting a claim to BCA for a total of **£553.59** comprised of the following budget heads:

Sub Budget Head - **Meetings** (Covers - photocopy, postage, room hire, stationary, phone bills, travel expenses of officers to meetings. Does not cover - travel expenses of members)

Meetings: £319.63: comprising:

Room Hire: £104.00

Photocopying, Postage and 'phone calls: £215.63

CNCC officers do not claim mileage.

Sub Budget Head - **Conservation & Access** (Covers - Negotiating access to caves and mines, gating of entrances, stabilising (and opening up of alternative safer) of entrances, working with landowner to maintain access, payment of "peppercorn" rents for access, other liaison and public relations work related to maintaining access and promoting conservation, travel expenses for meetings, photocopy, postage, stationary, phone bills. Does not cover - digging as part of new exploration)

Conservation & Access: £233.96: comprising:

£100.00 access agreement for Kay Shuttleworth Estate

£100.00 access agreement for Boreham Cave

£10.38: postage and annual access agreement for Stump Cross/Mongo Gill, Birks Fell and Robinsons Pot

£23.58: postage and annual access agreement for Fountains Fell

(The majority of 2013 work under this heading has been funded by Natural England)

Sub Budget Head - **Insurance** (Covers - Provision of Public Liability cover for all persons (including officers, members, volunteers and land owners & their employees) involved in activities on behalf of the RCC activities, public liability cover for land owner access agreements. Does not cover - insurance for clubs or individuals not undertaking authorised work on behalf of the RCC)

No expenditure in 2013 under this budget head

Sub Budget Head - **Provision of Information** (Covers - Production of "Regional" Circulars (regular or spasmodic) on access, Production of "Regional" Access Handbook (regular or spasmodic. **Does not cover** - Production of a "Regional" newsletter (regular or spasmodic), Production of Handbook (regular or spasmodic), Production or sponsoring of "Regional" (Area) Guide Book, Topo sheet, Bolting Guide etc, Participation in events to promote caving)

No expenditure in 2013 under this budget head

Glenn Jones

CNCC Treasurer

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9 February 2014

CNCC Accounts 2013-14

Dear Glenn

We have checked the bank statements, claims and receipts, summaries of cheques issued and payments received and after raising a small number of minor queries, which you have resolved entirely to our satisfaction, we are happy to state that all monies expended have been accurately accounted for. Similarly all income has been correctly recorded and the bank statements are in full agreement with the records of all transaction.

With all best wishes



Dr RA Halliwell, Committee Member Craven Pothole Club
Mrs PC Halliwell, Hon Librarian & Senior Vice-President Craven Pothole Club

Council of Northern Caving Clubs

Annual General Meeting March 1st 2014

Chairman's remarks

This year 2013/14 has been a bit chaotic especially in the last few months. Some success has been achieved with access now available to Fairy Caves in Weardale thanks to English Nature and our own access officer, and the good cooperation of La'farge. Not all negotiations have been successful as some landowners are truly anti caving but undeterred our access officer and E.N. keep trying on your behalf.

The current nit picking by some member clubs and other individuals has not been helpful, no constitution is perfect and never will be, we can all pick holes in it. Our constitution is not perfect and needs to be altered to reflect changes in modern caving practices and techniques where the days are over of large numbers of cavers being essential to access the bottom of any cave in our area.

I am of the opinion that the large amount of work being done by our officers and permit secretaries has never been fully appreciated by the caving community, maybe we don't shout our own praises enough, but why should we have to? The proof of the actions is in the access to all member clubs of both CNCC and BCA to more caves than ever.

Testing of anchors

Fitting of anchors

Publishing rigging guides

Negotiating with landowners

Drawing up legally binding agreements

Issuing permits

Organising remedial work to access and entrances

Organising removing of rubbish from inside and around caves

Attending meetings

Are just some of the work carried out on your behalf by CNCC officers and permit secretaries, no one gets paid for the very large amount of time these commitments take up, we would all like to go caving more often or even see a bit more of our families.

Here's to plenty of caving in the next 12 months.

Roy Holmes

CNCC Conservation Officer Report

AGM March 2014

Since the last meeting in January I have represented the caving interests at a public seminar on 'Access versus Environment' at UCLAN. This covered concepts such as "psychological ecology" and "we are the environment". Laugh? I nearly bought a round! Nothing to further the knowledge of cavers here I'm sorry to report.

The reported fallen tree trunk at Jingling has been safely removed (rather than removed safely) Thanks are due to Martin Holroyd for his professional services, given freely, at the end of a long day clearing storm damage elsewhere. SRT with a chainsaw is a fascinating spectator sport.

The drystone wall/ stove at Sewels Cave Giggleswick has been rebuilt after it was destroyed by vandals last summer. Thanks to John 'Lugger' Thorpe for reporting the incident and helping with the restoration of this heritage feature. How did Lugger reach the top of a 6ft wall?

Tony 'Bog' Brown has written an excellent article for Speleology on the work of the CNCC conservation volunteers. He managed to deliver the contractual obligation of mentioning my name in glowing terms on at least 3 occasions and will receive his Caribbean Cruise with Mrs Bog at their earliest convenience. Reporting of conservation work is a vital part of our mission to place conservation at the heart of all aspects of modern caving.

Andy Walsh has continued his tree planting at Cow Pot enclosure and is currently working on stabilisation at Gale Garth.

A new season of scientific monitoring has started at the newly opened Fairy Holes Cave- Weardale. I have changed the tiny tag data loggers at the 2 locations in the cave and added some conservation tape to protect the Coral Gallery from unnecessary erosion. The next trip will see the introduction of a fixed handline to mark the entrance and exit to Vein Chamber from the streamway. This should protect some very fragile caver egos which have been badly damaged in recent visits. **"Protecting legendary caver's egos for future generations"**.

Andrew Hinde

March 2014