



Council of Northern Caving Clubs

Chairman's Report 2009

On the whole 2009 has been a quiet year for the CNCC, especially me. It is very difficult to make comments on most aspects of the councils work as it will or at least should be covered by the reports of the other officers, and anyway they are all bigger than me. One of the more controversial events, of the past year, was the pirating and subsequent publication of trips by clubs, from other regions, of their visits to highly sensitive caves. The problem was amicably dealt with by our honorary and illustrious secretary.

On a brighter note it is good to have a substantial amount of money provided by Natural England for access and conservation work to cave entrances within our area. Thanks must go to Andy Hinds of Natural England and our conservation officer Marion Dunn for all their hard work in administering the funds, hopefully there will be more money available in the future to continue this work.

As far as I am aware there have been very few problems with the land owners and tenants of the areas that contain the caves for which the council issues permits, and long may it remain so. Thanks must therefore go to the meets secretaries for all their dedication and hard work without which the council could not operate.

Hopefully the coming year will see the resurgence of the bolting program, I will leave it to the technical group to elaborate.

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COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

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Secretaries Report to the CNCC AGM 07 March 2009

I must offer my apologies for loosing the minutes of the last AGM. This however is down to nothing more than a twist of events that wrote off my 250GB portable passport hard drive. The story, the minutes were done on a PC and saved on the portable hard drive. They were then transferred to my own PC, which when the new version of Norton was installed crashed with devastating effect and needed to be rebooted from the original disc, thus erasing all saved data. When I tried to open the portable hard drive it refused to do anything. I passed this to a government investigator to try and retrieve the information. It has now transpired that the inside has been fried. I can only conclude that I must have placed it on top of the combination microwave oven when it was in operation, which has melted the contacts and caused a short circuit.

Access

Leck Fell. A new entrance into Nott's Pot will be reopened during or just after the closed season. I use the term reopened because it had been open for a brief period and was then filled in by the explorers, after some concerns. I have negotiated with the diggers and agreed the following

1. I will negotiate with the Estate over the opening of a new entrance as an extension of the Nott's Pot system
2. Diggers and CNCC to reopen the entrance and under take stock proofing and other surface works as necessary within the constraints of the SSSI
3. A cave conservation management plan will be drafted to monitor effects of access on the formations
4. Conservation work to be done between the diggers and CNCC
5. Glenn to take a photographic record of the formations as part of the monitoring plan
6. General access under the Leck Fell permit system.

A meeting with the Estate managers is due to take place on 30 March 2009, where the new entrance will be discussed and a number of other issues which will include, access to Lost John's Cave during the closed season and the possibility of Lost John's Cave coming out of the permit system. And if successful to include Nott's II. Other issues include parking and Grouse shooting.

Rigging guide volume II

I have given this a great deal of time and I am hopeful that we will have a draft ready for the summer with the possibility of a print run late summer early Autumn.

CNCC Technical Group

We have been working with the DCA representative on a revised version of the anchor installation guidelines, now called procedures. These are to be discussed and agreed at the next BCA Equipment meeting (March), I am hopeful that soon after that date I can run an anchor replacement course, although I must stress that nominations have already been completed for the first course.

Club accommodation and fire risk assessments

I have electronic copies of the documents for the aforementioned requirements for those who require copies. I did look at the possibility of running a course, however, the cost £310 per person for the two day course, I though would be too expensive for most clubs. However, if any club nominated safety officers want to attend a course I can book them on a course. I can give advice on undertaking a fire risk assessment, however, clubs must understand, that because of legal reasons, they will be solely responsible for following the guide and implementing amendments and alterations, both written and to the fabric of the building.

Training officer

It is my intention to ask the committee to accept my nomination for the post of Training Officer. I am not promising anything at this moment in time. But, I do intend to arrange for a schedule of specific training and development courses for cavers over the coming years.

Les Sykes
CNCC secretary
CNCC Technical Group

CNCC Conservation Officer's report AGM 7 March 2009

Main developments in 2008/9

Andrew Hinde (AH) was appointed as a Cave Conservation Adviser with Natural England in October 2008. Andrew has worked in partnership with CNCC, and the wider caving community to collect and collate cave conservation SSSI monitoring data via the newly set up website and to deliver a variety of cave-related surface conservation works projects, with financial support from Natural England.

Marion Dunn (MD), CNCC Conservation officer, drafted a letter and pro-forma to all CNCC-affiliated clubs in October 2008 to raise awareness about the available monies for surface conservation works, and inform clubs of the new website, which Andrew had set up.

Due to a bereavement, I have been off the scene for several months and I would like to thank everyone involved for their support and for keeping me informed of developments. Special thanks are due to the following individuals. Sincere apologies if I have missed out any other contributors: members of the CNCC committee, especially Les and Glenn, and Andrew Hinde. Thanks are also due to those who have taken the time to submit cave conservation monitoring data: H Beck, Ray Duffy, J Gardner, Michael Hale, Ric Halliwell, Andrew Hinde Frank Longwill, Simon Parker, Jack Pickup, Bill Sherrington, Andy Walsh and Patrick Warren.

Marion Dunn, CNCC Conservation Officer, 5.3.09

Main project achievements in 2008/9

- Website statistics holding up well
- Promotional mouse mat to be issued with Descent Magazine in April. Good coverage of surface works in Descent.
- Two community groups doing cave monitoring this month with YDMT partners and associated PR
- Surface work money all spent on 6 projects and PR spreading through Caving club journals and websites
- Regular team of volunteers established to undertake conservation work for the project.
- Monies secured from BCRA

Surface works projects

- Ireby
- Aquamole
- Ravenscar
- Buttertubs
- Barbon Pot
- Link Pot

Cave SSSI monitoring (mostly completed at Dec 08)

- Stump Cross
- Goyden
- Manchester Hole
- Birks Fell
- Dow-Providence
- Yordas
- Spectacle-Vesper
- Notts II
- Ease Gill
- East Passage-Mud Hall

Cave SSSI monitoring (mostly outstanding at Dec 08)

- Northern Dales (Cliff Force, Knock Fell, Fairy Holes)
- Most of east and west Kingsdale
- Nidderdale-Howstean area
- Stump Cross (part)
- Dentdale
- Most of Ingleborough
- Pikedaw
- Red Moss
- Little Hull
- Penyghent Pot
- Sleets Gill
- Boreham
- Strans Gill
- Redmire
- Langcliffe
- Mossdale