

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Agenda for Committee Meeting 22nd June 2019, Hellifield Village Institute, 9:30am

(1) Apologies for absence

(2) Acceptance of minutes from the January Committee meeting (these have already been through the one-month review process before making public on the website).

(3) Any matters arising or updates on action items from the January Committee meeting?

Reminder of action items from January meeting (with update in red where status known):

Individual(s)	Action item
Matt E.	Issue October meeting minutes as final. Done
Kay E./Gary D.	Continue to liaise over GDPR requirements with respect to CNCC conservation volunteers. Ongoing.
Matt E./Gary D.	Continue work on a CNCC display to have ready ideally in time for Hidden Earth 2019. Ongoing and on-target.
Tim A.	Continue Barbondale discussions; keep Lee Paskin involved. Update to be provided in reports/at meeting.
Matt E.	Compile comments that he received on BCA draft safeguarding policy and forward onto BCA for consideration. Done
Andrew H.	Action the removal of the KMC metal steps. Done
Andrew H./Matt E.	Complete winch purchase/arrange training (Andrew). Matt to advertise. Done
Pete B.	Attempt to claim for 2018 first aid training from BCA. Done
Rowan W.	Investigate dates for Crackpot Cave works and liaise through CNCC Conservation Officer to gain conservation volunteer resource. Rowan to check on water supply and mud formation concerns before proceeding. Done and first conservation session complete.
Tim A.	Inspect Lost Pot fencing and report to Andrew H. if any works needed. Done; remedial work performed.
Andrew H.	Present dossier of conservation works to Ingleborough Estate trustees. Update to be provided in reports/at meeting.

Andrew H.	Investigate ways forward for the 'Thyme' dig issue. Update to be provided in reports/at meeting.
Tim A.	Investigate what might be able to be done at Snatcher Pot regarding missing lid and loose rock inside entrance. Update to be provided in reports/at meeting.
Andrew H.	Look into fencing options for Rift Pot at Masongill. Update to be provided in reports/at meeting.
Andrew H.	Action/consult on guidelines and generic risk assessments for CNCC owned equipment. Update to be provided in reports/at meeting.
Matt E./Gary D./Tim A	Collaborate on actioning stickers for the new batch of Caves and Karst books and a landowner webpage.
Matt E./Tim A.	Come up with suggested CNCC mission statement for AGM agenda. Done and accepted at AGM.
Matt E	Encourage member clubs to participate in the BCA survey and also to feed back their ideas on how the CNCC could be pushing for reform. Done; request to participate in survey circulated.
Matt E.	Write a bespoke article on CNCC news for the upcoming BCA newsletter. Done
Matt E./Tim A.	Communicate to CaveFest our wish to support them in some way and to suggest they come up for a weekend to a CNCC meeting. Done.
Matt E./Pete B.	Arrange tacklesack for Sam Allshorn. Done and payment approved.
Sam A.	Discuss non-BCA approved anchors further with BCA Insurance manager and bring results to a future CNCC meeting for discussion. Discussed offline; Sam A. to report back when ready to continue discussion.

(4) Reports (will be made available approx one week before meeting)

- a. Chairman's report – Andrew Hinde
- b. Secretary's report – Matt Ewles
- c. Treasurer's report – Pete Bann
- d. Conservation Officer's report – Kay Easton
- e. Access Officer's report – Tim Allen
- f. Training Officer's report – N/A (position vacant)
- g. Webmaster's report – Gary Douthwaite
- h. Anchor Coordinator's report – Simon Wilson (stepping down)
- i. BCA Representative reports – Various^^
- j. Meets secretary and Online Booking System administrator reports

^^ BCA representatives: Tim Allen (BCA Council/AGM)
 David Botcherby (BCA Youth and Development)

Simon Wilson (BCA Equipment and Techniques)
Kay Easton (BCA Access and Conservation)
Position vacant (BCA Training Committee)
Position vacant (BCA Publications and Information Committee)

(5) Confirmation of co-opted positions and representatives

This agenda item is a discussion and vote on whether to endorse the continuation of each of these co-opted positions, and an opportunity for anyone else interested in performing one of these roles to come forward.

Leck/Casterton/Aygill permits – Geoff Whittaker
Online Booking System Administrator – Geoff Whittaker
Stump Cross/ Robinson's/Birks Fell/Fairy Holes Permits – Ric Halliwell
Excalibur Permits – Matt Ewles
Bowland Permits – Tony Brown
Webmaster – Gary Douthwaite
Anchor Coordinator – To be confirmed at meeting
Representative to the BCA Council and AGM – Tim Allen
Representative to the BCA E&T Committee – Simon Wilson (to be confirmed)
Representative to the BCA Access and Conservation Committee – Kay Easton
Representative to the BCA Youth and Development – David Botcherby
Representative to the BCA Training Committee – Position vacant
Representative to the BCA P&I Committee – Position vacant

(6) Appointment of Assistant Secretary

To help me free up some time for other commitments, I would like the CNCC to co-opt an Assistant Secretary. From 1975-1990 the CNCC has an Assistant Secretary, so there is precedent for this.

I have already identified someone willing to take on this role; Josh Young. Josh is an experienced northern caver, a member (and former president) of York University Cave and Pothole Club and has been one of their regular representatives to the CNCC since March 2017, attending six meetings. He is also a member of York Caving Club, and a personal friend of mine.

I expect that the Assistant Secretary will be involved in the administrative duties of the CNCC (report compiling, agenda writing, minute taking, email responding etc) but with the option to expand the role into more duties if desired. I will remain Secretary until at least March 2020.

I request that the CNCC Committee co-opt Josh to be the CNCC Assistant Secretary, welcome him to the team, and provide him every assistance in getting more involved. Sadly, due to a holiday which was booked before Committee meeting dates for 2019 were even announced, Josh cannot join for this meeting but will hopefully be at most future meetings.

Matt Ewles, Secretary

(7) Access on Leck Fell

Dear Committee

The time has come to consider our position on the historic access agreement to the caves of Leck Fell and decide upon an action.

The last valid/signed agreement between the CNCC and the Kay-Shuttleworth estate expired on 31st December 2012. Since then the CNCC has continued to support and administer that arrangement unchanged. I have considered this a gesture of good will until an alternative arrangement can be negotiated and consequently a number of discussions have taken place with the estate over the intervening years. We are now in the seventh year since that agreement expired.

During that time there have been two significant changes to access policy that affects the CNCC. There has been a huge amount of debate over whether the CRoW Act applies to caving and this has been discussed by us many times. Information on the current position is available on our website <https://cncc.org.uk/caving/caves/access-land.php>. Worthy of particular note is the BCA policy on CRoW which states, "The British Caving Association holds the opinion that the CRoW Act already permits access for recreational caving". All the Leck caves are on access land.

The second change in recent years is reflected in the CNCC's own policy change to be more representative of the whole caving community as well as continuing to strive to improve access across our region. I have been tasked to renegotiate our historic agreements with this in mind. As the committee will know CNCC has been successful in recent years negotiating with several major landowners. Access on Fountains Fell and the Langcliffe Estate is considerably improved. On Ingleborough we have designed, tested and implemented an on-line cave booking and management system which is working well.

In early dialogue the Leck estate indicated that they supported the principle of an on-line system. Now that we have a system up and running on Ingleborough I have promoted that site to the estate but after some early positive indications the estate has become completely unresponsive to any communication.

I do not believe we can continue to support the historic agreement when the estate is unwilling to enter into dialogue on alternatives which meet modern standards and the greater expectations of cavers. The old agreement is widely ignored by cavers and our continued support of it reflects poorly on our own credibility with those we represent. Therefore, I must recommend that the Committee consider withdrawing support for the historic Leck agreement forthwith.

I will be happy to elaborate further and answer questions at our June meeting and also update the Committee on any changes which occur in the meantime. I hope that the advance notice of this matter as an agenda item will enable the Committee to support a decision.

Tim Allen, Access Officer

(8) Removal of Training Officer position from Constitution

For years, the CNCC has struggled to get a Training Officer who is able to develop this role by arranging training for northern cavers, while also working with the BCA Training Committee and CNCC Committee. It is a major responsibility and has proved too demanding for those who have come forward for the position over the past five years.

Currently, Andrew Hinde has kindly put his name to the role purely for the purposes of satisfying the constitutional requirement to have a named Training Officer.

I feel the time has come to accept that we are unlikely to achieve a volunteer for the role as it currently stands, and we should look to remove this as a constitutionally defined Officer position. Instead we should seek to co-opt someone into a much more scaled down role, with a focus on acting as a liaison between the CNCC and the BCA Training Committee.

We should emphasise that rather than organising training events ourselves, we are happy to support those organised by others, either by providing a funding avenue, or by endorsing and helping to promote the event under the CNCC name (rather like the Paperless Surveying courses).

I would like to ask the CNCC Committee whether they support this move. If so, I will prepare the necessary constitutional amendments for the 2020 AGM.

Matt Ewles, Secretary

(9) Date and time of next meeting

Committee Meeting Saturday 5th October 2019, Hellifield Village Institute, 9:30am (NOTE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED DATE OF 12th OCTOBER DUE TO CLASH WITH BCA MEETING).

(10) Any other business?