

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION

AGM

To be held at Hellifield Village hall on 05 March 2011

Starting at 10:00

AGENDA

1. Apologise for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matter arising from the minutes
4. Officers reports
 - Chairman's report
 - Secretary's report
 - Treasurer's report
 - Conservation officer's report
 - Access officer's report
 - Training officer's report
 - Technical group report
5. Meets secretaries reports
 - Leck Fell
 - Casterton Fell
 - Birks Fell
 - Penyghent & Fountains Fell
 - Other areas
6. BCA report
7. Constitutional amendments
8. Election of officers and committee
9. Any other business
10. Date and place of next meeting and committee meetings

Council of Northern Caving Clubs

Annual General Meeting 5th March 2011

Chairman's report

As far as the chairman is concerned the last year has been very quiet, the only really pressing problem being caused by the cancellation of the council meeting in January.

I was to bring to the meeting the renewal of the licence agreement for Birks Fell Cave with The National Trust. But after a few phone calls it was agreed that I should sign the licence which I have duly done.

I have not as yet had the licence back but the licence is for a maximum of 30 permits to be issued over the open season (between 15th April and 1st November) and the Trust and the tenant Mr. J Horner to be notified monthly in advance.

Roy Holmes

Report for the CNCC AGM 05 March 2011

Secretary's report

The secretarial work load for the past year has been steady and the majority of my time taken up by other duties within CNCC. However, it should not be underestimated by the committee the vast work carried out by the volunteers to ensure the smooth running of the CNCC, which ensures that cavers across the UK have relatively easy access to the caves of Northern Britain.

Access Officer's report

It has been a very busy 12 months, which has not been helped by the frequent violations of access agreements on both Leck and Casterton Fells. The opening of Shuttleworth Pot followed by the mass migration of subterranean visitors into a cave that is on access controlled land without permits lead to weeks of problems. During which time I sent out an email to all the CNCC committee and ordinary committee members. *'Unauthorised access to Leck and Casterton Fells is becoming a problem, especially Leck Fell and Shuttleworth Pot. These unauthorised access issues are hampering the negotiations with the land agent and to date I have not received the new agreement for Leck Fell. If your club or group is going to have a peek down Shuttleworth Pot please discourage them from visiting Leck and Casterton unless they have a permit. Shuttleworth permits are available for the next period (July-March), and give me a chance to sort out the problems'.*

A number of clubs that have been caught visiting caves without permits has risen this year. If this continues then clubs that habitually violate access agreements will have to be dealt with through BCA. However, even BCA are as toothless as we are and technically there cannot be a mechanism for dealing with the issues. I will be writing some notes for the CNCC representative to take to the BCA AGM regarding the matter of unauthorised access.

I also received a complaint about the Army from Halton training camp using the Easegill system for training. I contacted the senior training officer at the camp and have received assurances that if it has happened then it will not happen again as they do not have permission to use the system either from CNCC or the land agent. The following statement was issued by me to the persons who made the complaint.

'I have had lengthy discussions with both the landowner and the OIC at Halton training camp today. To cut some very long conversations short. Halton do not have permission to enter Easegill caverns, but they do have land clearance (given by the landowner) to use Bull Pot of W. All instructors at Halton will be told that Easegill cavers (County etc) cannot be used and if they are an illegal act has been

committed (corporate manslaughter if it results in death) and in all other cases no insurance liability.

The landowner has given land clearance for a number of trips into the Easegill caves for leader/instructor training for the School of Adventurous Training at Rippon (also known as Harrogate and Catterick). The clearances are for about 8-10 trips during 2011 up until 03/2012 and are for what they say instructor training (as with CIC's). The clearances are for 1 mini bus and up to 4 people who are not novice cavers and are aware of cave conservation and the access arrangements for Casterton Fell because they have signed to say they know.

Access to Boreham Cave is agreed and I will be drafting an agreement for Andrew to present to the owner.

Technical Group report

It has been busy 12 months for the CNCC Technical Group. Some of the original caves have had new routes put in them and work is nearly complete on Shuttleworth Pot. There has been an anchor problem with BCA and the current situation is that we are still waiting for the anchors to be delivered. A problem occurred in China during testing so when the new batch arrives we will be testing them to our specification. Those involved in the testing will be CNCC and DCA. CSCC has withdrawn from the BCA anchor replacement program and they currently have problems recognising BCA Equipment & Techniques Committee.

Training Officer

Currently nothing has happened; probably because I am too busy doing other things in CNCC (basically trying to save access). Therefore if anyone would like to relinquish me of some of my duties I could concentrate on training, but until that happens things will remain the same.

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS
AGM – March 5th 2011

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 2010 accounts for the 2011 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 (Quicken) that this report for the 2010 financial year is correct.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME

Balance c/f from 2009	£4,871.75
Rigging Guides	£840.00
Natural England Funding	£4,035.45
Resin & Nozzles	£654.41*
2009 BCA Annual Funding Grant	£486.39
French Cave Rescue Books	£60.00
TOTAL INCOME	£6,076.25

*Includes late 2009 payment from BCA

EXPENSES

Meetings (Room Hire)	£106.00
Secretarial, postage & 'phone calls	£130.72
Publication postage	£21.72
Access & Conservation	£362.46
NE website	£60.00
Natural England Project Payments	£2,186.42
Resin & Nozzles	£472.59
Bank Transfer	£6,000.00
Stationery	£91.64
TOTAL EXPENSES	£9,431.55

Balance c/f to 2011 **£1,516.45**

HIGH INTEREST ACCOUNT:

Balance 1 st January 2010	£12,667.33
Interest received:	£7.68
Funds transfer (in)	£6,000.00
Balance 31 st December 2010	£18,675.01

ASSETS: No assets (*assets older than 5 years have been written off*)

BCA Grant to Regional Councils: CNCC Claim 2010

The CNCC Treasurer will be submitting a claim to BCA for a total of £690.82 comprised of the following budget heads (which will offset overpayments of BCA grant aid to CNCC in 2005/2006):

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: £236.72: comprising:

Room Hire: £106.00

Photocopying, Postage and 'phone calls: £130.72

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: £362.46: comprising:

£100.00 access agreement for Kay Shuttleworth Estate

£24.31: postage & stationery directly related to Stump Cross/Mongo Gill, Birks Fell and Robinsons Pot landowners (covering 2 years).

£28.49: postage and annual access agreement for Fountains Fell

£126.86: Ribblesdale Farmers "do"

£5.00: postage directly related to Casterton Fell

£77.80: Pete Muckalt presentation

(The majority of 2010 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 2010 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)

Provision of Information: £91.64: comprising:

Replacement thermal binder

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

Glenn Jones

CNCC Treasurer

Council of Northern Caving Clubs

Meets Secretary's Report for Birks Fell & Mongo Gill

General

This is my twenty second year as access controller and I know of no problems regarding access to Birks Fell or Mongo Gill. The National Trust have informed me that, although they wish the access agreement for Birks Fell to continue under the same conditions as now, they wish to see a more formal agreement document drawn up.

Birks Fell

The decline in bookings has continued, I have 7 for 2011 compared with 9 at the same time in 2010.

1977	32	1978	35	1979	40	1980	41
1981	50	1982	47	1983	52	1984	63
1985	46	1986	55	1987	44	1988	28
1989	32	1990	25	1991	41	1992	49
1993	35	1994	41	1995	39	1996	34
1997	35	1998	28	1999	32	2000	15
2001	0	2002	21	2003	27	2004	10
2005	12	2006	15	2007	17	2008	15
2009	10	2010	13				

Average number per year for the last 10 years (excluding 2001 because of foot and mouth)- -15 (17).

Robinson's Pot

The new agreement with the National Trust specifies a maximum of five permits per year. I would suggest that we continue the practice of drawing names out of a hat to establish who receives a permit for Robinson's Pot. The available (fixed) dates are:

Saturday 11 June
Saturday 9 July
Saturday 13 August
Saturday 10 September
Saturday 8 October

Two requests have been received so far, both from Clubs that have previously descended the pot. I would suggest that we allocate these two permits and pick 3 more clubs from around the table so that we take up all the permits.

Mongo Gill

So far I have received requests for 4 (3) permits in 2011(2010).

1981	28	1982	39	1983	30	1984	44
1985	24	1986	28	1987	29	1988	36
1989	38	1990	38	1991	36	1992	43
1993	34	1994	36	1995	20	1996	26
1997	0	1998	0	1999	22	2000	22
2001	5	2002	5	2003	3	2004	9
2005	6	2006	10	2007	6	2008	8
2009	10	2010	3				

The access agreement has been changed this year to remove the closed season in August and July and replace it by Bank Holiday Weekends. I also issue permits under this agreement allowing access into Great Expectations although the link to Stump Cross streamway is permanently blocked by a major collapse. One permit has so far been requested for 2011, the same as in 2010.

Ric Halliwell
1 March 2011

Report to CNCC AGM 01/03/11 – Casterton Fell

A total of 28 clubs were issued with permits for the whole of 2010 and this adds up to a total of 128 permits in total,

To date for 2011 – 11 permits were issued in January, 8 in February, and only 7 for March

This indicates that we have most clubs ignoring the permit system, which makes my life very easy

Overall there are no problems to report at this point and there are plenty of permits available.

Alan Speight (CNCC Meets Sec – Casterton Fell)

Council of Northern Caving Clubs Meets Secretary's Report for Birks Fell & Mongo Gill

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***Ric Halliwell
1 March 2011***

Report to CNCC AGM 5th March 2011 – Leck Fell Access Agreement

During the last twelve months a total of 317 permits have been issued to 47 clubs and organisations. The figures for previous years were as follows:

Year	Number of permits	Number of clubs
03/04	197	63
04/05	191	58
05/06	181	48
06/07	187	41
07/08	354	46
08/09	367	51
09/10	363	40
10/11	317	47

The decrease in the total number of permits issued is accounted for by the fact that since the autumn of last year it has not been necessary to issue as many permits to those digging on the fell. This has been as a result of a specific arrangement with the landowner.

Over the last twelve months there has been an increase in the numbers of clubs who have been issued with permits and all who requested access were accommodated.

The capacity to issue three permits a day has continued to provide a greater degree of flexibility and has meant that more clubs have been able to have their first choice of caves /dates.

There were complaints received from a member club and also the landowner in relation to unauthorised access and parking issues, on Sunday 30th January 2011. Two clubs, whose members were involved, were contacted, and apologies and undertakings were duly received in relation to this.

With two new entrances now in existence there has been a high level of enquiries and interest and it seems likely that there will be increased demand for access during the coming twelve months.

Jim Sloane (CNCC Meets Secretary – Leck Fell)

Council Northern Caving Clubs

A.G.M. report for Penyghent/Fountains Fell 2011

2010 was my sixth year as access officer and in that time I have issued 395 permits, an average of 66 permits per year.

Last year was a record year with a total of 62 permits issued and no reported problems.

Cave	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Little hull	10	8	9	7	10	19
Dale head	0	0	2	4	6	5
Penyghent Pot	11	8	24	23	17	20
Washfold Pot	10	12	11	8	14	11
Hunt Pot	4	4	3	4	10	11
Gingling Hole	9	36	3	8	6	10
Gingling sink	0	0	1	1	0	0
Hammer Pot	4	3	8	5	4	6
Total	54	71	61	60	67	82

2011 looks like being another busy year with 34 permits issued to date, I am willing to carry on as access officer for another year.

Malcolm Hughes 26 Wellcroft, Otley, Leeds, LS21 1JJ malcolm@hughesls10.fsnet.co.uk