

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 1982

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, 3rd April 1982, at Ingleborough Community Centre, Ingleton, at 3 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 1981 AGM (previously circulated)
3. Matters arising from minutes
4. Chairman's Report
5. Secretary's Report (attached)
6. Treasurer's Report (attached)
7. Meets Secretaries Reports
 - (i) Leck Fell (attached)
 - (ii) Casterton Fell
 - (iii) Penygent/Fountains Fell
 - (iv) Birks Fell/Mongo Gill
8. Election of Officers and Committee
9. Matters relating to N.C.A. and reports from N.C.A. representatives
10. Any Other Business

Members are reminded that voting will be restricted to one representative from each paid-up Full Member Club.

Representatives from Associate Member Clubs are welcome to attend and join in discussion.

Nominations for the post of Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and the eight Committee places, all of whom must represent a different Full Member Club, may be sent to the Secretary or be made at the meeting.

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 3RD APRIL 1982, AT INGLEBOROUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

ATTENDANCE: B Smith (BPC), M Rhodes (ACC), G Barber (WM), M Burgess (NPC),
R Sutcliffe (GC), L Howard (BCC), A Barber (BCC),
I Wilkinson (BPC), A Hall (RRCPC), P Muckalt (RRCPC),
D Mellor (CPC), R Dawson (EPC), B Hunt (EPC), P Morgan (EPC),
M Hudson (YSS), S Tunnicliffe (YSS), A Tate (YSS)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

P Ramsden, M K Lyon

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - previously circulated.

A discussion on access, particularly to Leck and Casterton Fell, followed. A Hall informed the meeting that he was shortly to meet with Lord Shuttleworth and would try to gain improved access to Leck Fell. G Barber suggested that access problems and the like be regularly communicated to cavers through, for example, "Caves & Caving". It was also suggested that minutes of CNCC meetings, or, a suitable extract from such minutes, be sent to the Editor of Caves & Caving. This suggestion met with the approval of the meeting.

3. SECRETARY'S REPORT - previously circulated.

It was suggested that an annual reminder to clubs re subscriptions and notification of address changes be printed in Caves & Caving (see above).

4. TREASURER'S REPORT - accounts previously circulated.

The Treasurer added that he had now received the NCA grant for 1981, and the Council was now due for the 1982 grant.

He reminded clubs that funds were available for projects relating to access or conservation, e.g. fencing around open shafts, stabilising entrances, etc., and invited clubs to put suggestions to him, or any Committee member.

5. MEETS SECRETARIES' REPORTS

i) Leck Fell - previously circulated.

A Hall added that Gavel Pot entrance had been re-fenced and a new stile added.

Deaths Head and Rumbling were in need of fencing - **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** Lost Pot entrance was now blocked after the recent rescue.

ii) Casterton Fell - report attached.

iii) Penygent/Gingling - I Wilkinson gave the following verbal report:

16 permits for Hammer and 30 for Gingling had been approved by Mr Coates for 1982. Mr Coates had requested a payment similar to that given by the Council last year (£40) and it was suggested that he be given £46 (equivalent to £1 per permit), as a "goodwill" payment for access to his land.

This was approved by the meeting.

Penygent area - due to the changes in ownership, the close season may possibly be removed, except for Penygent Pot and Dale Head, but no other changes were anticipated. Negotiations were in hand. Stream diversions around Hull Pot may affect the lower reaches of Penygent Pot. P Wood had asked the Council to remind clubs of the flood risk at Calf Holes due to forestry work.

- iv) Birks Fell/Mongo Gill - previously circulated.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

Chairman	M Rhodes ACC, - Prop. BPC., Seconded GG
Secretary	B Smith BPC, - Prop. GC., Seconded RRCPC
Asst. Secretary	R Dawson EPC, - Prop. CPC., Seconded BPC
Treasurer	G Barber was co-opted

The following eight clubs were elected as Committee Members:-

Gritstone C., Red Rose CPC, Burnley CC, Craven PC, Yorkshire SS, Northern PC, Northern Mine ES, White Rose PC.

7. N.C.A.

i) Executive/AGM

Ben Lyon represented CNCC at the last meeting. Ghar Paran grants had been discussed and it had been agreed that if any member of the GP Committee was involved in an expedition applying for grant aid, then they would stand down.

ii) Equipment

D Elliott had prepared a report for the NCA AGM (Attached).

iii) Training

The committee had changed the Cave Leader Certificate to the Cave Instructor Certificate, and was looking into Regional Assessments.

iv) Conservation and Access

The Cave Conservation Fund was still under discussion. R Sutcliffe indicated that he would no longer be able to continue representing CNCC on this committee and asked for volunteers to replace him.

It was suggested that CNCC elect an Access and Conservation Officer to deal with problems in the North not specifically covered by Access Agreement or other arrangement. As an amendment to the Constitution then, it was proposed by R Sutcliffe, seconded by M Rhodes that under "Officers and Committee" (Rule 6.2) be included the post of "Access and Conservation Officer". This was passed unanimously. A Hall was elected to fill this post, proposed BPC, seconded GC.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14th May 1982, 7-45 pm, venue - Rose & Crown, Skipton (provisional)

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 3rd APRIL 1982.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Since the publication of my letter re pirating in the caving press I have received some 20 replies, most as a result of the appearance in "Caves and Caving". Opinions appear to fall into two categories, firstly in flexibility of the booking system and secondly small groups unable to obtain information or permits. In the first category were cavers, mainly in the South, who can only get to Yorkshire very infrequently and then, because of work situations, only at very short notice, and unable to give the required 1 months notice. The second category was small groups, not affiliated to a member club, who for some reason don't want to join a club, or form their own, to whom we cannot issue permits. In both categories were a number who admitted to pirating because of these situations.

In view of the foregoing perhaps ~~the~~^{this} Council should re-assess the access agreements with a view to, either relaxing some of the conditions to allow the above access, or persuading the landowners to give the Council more immediate control. Many cavers still think, even after the emphasis put in my letter, that the Council and not the landowners make the rules. I was pleased to hear at the last Committee meeting that we are getting through to Clubs and that more are writing for mid-week bookings, ~~this~~ alleviating some of the pressure at week-ends.

The reason for the late writing of this report is because I wanted to visit Casterton Fell, in person, to see the situation of pirating. I picked 28th March 1982 for this as my own club had a booking for Bull Pot of Witches, but on leaving the fell only 3 other clubs were noted on the board. As one of these was in Link Pot I can only assume that all had permits and that no pirates were about on that day.

Finally Juan Corrin of Caves and Caving has written to me and offered the services of the magazine to C.N.C.C. as a further channel of communication with cavers. I propose the Council take up this offer by extending an invitation to Juan to attend all out meetings and sending minutes to him. I look forward to your views on the points in this report, and I am prepared to stand again as your Chairman if you so desire.

M. Rhodes

29.3.82

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR AGM 1982

The Council has, at the time of writing some 158 member clubs, which for the first time in many years is a slight fall in membership.

There are 36 Full Member Clubs, twelve being represented on Committee of the Associate Members 31 are University, College or School clubs, and 53 are members of another Regional Council.

The fall in membership is actually due to the fact that, although several new clubs joined the Council during the year, a larger than usual number of clubs defaulted on the payment of their 1981 subscription, and thus, after a year's grace, have been removed from the membership list. One hopes that these clubs have really become defunct, or have at least given up caving in the North, as their only alternative if they wish to cave in areas where CNCC Access Agreements apply, is to join the (regretably) increasing band of "pirates".

One problem is that these clubs, and possibly others, may simply be suffering a communication gap within their own organisation, i.e. our 'reminders' that subs are due, minutes, changes of Meets Secretaries, etc, etc, are going to the wrong person and not being passed on.

It is only too obvious that this happens when I receive letters beginning:- "I have just taken over as Secretary of X Caving Club. Please send me a list of Meets Secretaries" . Why was it not passed on by the old secretary? Worse still, a recent letter to me, requested permission to visit Penygent Pot, Gaping Gill, Lost John's and Peak Cavern! (I suppose I was lucky, they could have asked for Agen Allwedd and G B Cave as well!)

For this reason I ask all clubs to let the Secretary, or any Officer of CNCC know of changes of Secretary, etc, or better still, particularly in the case of University & College Clubs, to establish a permanent address to which information can be sent so that it gets into the hands of the active cavers.

B J Smith
February 1982

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

MEETS SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR AGM 1982

BIRKS FELL CAVE AND MONGO GILL HOLE

Birks Fell Cave

Continuing the trend over the past few years, applications for permits are more numerous than ever before, although a welcome increasing number are for mid-week bookings. With access restricted to the period 16th April to 31st October each year there are only 58 weekend dates available. 32 permits were issued in 1977, 35 in 1978, 40 in 1979, 41 in 1980, 50 last year and to date 41 this year.

I have not yet approached the tenant farmer for his views on increased access, which I feel must be done before any approach is made to the landowner, but hope to be able to discuss this with him later in the year.

Problems which have arisen recently are all of a clerical nature, and I am sure, are common to the other meets secretaries:-

- a) A surprising number of applications are made for dates when there is no access.
- b) Many applications are made only a week or two in advance, and these usually have to be refused, not only due to prior bookings, but also because the monthly list has been submitted to the owner's agents in accordance with the terms of the access agreement.
- c) A great number of clubs still apply giving one date only, and in the case of this cave where most weekend dates are booked up months in advance, the provision of several alternatives would help both me and the clubs concerned. In this context I must say that it is a pleasure to receive applications from the Valley Caving Club who usually list the few dates on which they do not want a permit, and who this year listed 25 alternative dates suitable for them.
- d) A few clubs still write for permits without enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. I shall continue to supply permits to them, but they will be sent in unstamped envelopes.
- e) Whilst I appreciate that some clubs have to cancel meets at short notice for varying reasons, there are times when clubs know months in advance that they will not be able to use their permit. I would appreciate being told of this so that the date can be re-allocated.

Mongo Gill Hole

In 1977 I issued 7 permits only, last year the number had risen to 28 and so far there have been 29 applications for this year. Whilst I know "pirating" still takes place at this hole, endangering the access agreement, I hope this is declining and as can be seen from the figures above, there are plenty of free weekend dates available.

Cavers are still parking and changing in the Stump Cross Caverns private carpark and not on the roadside verge beyond the showcave as set out on the permit sheets. This practice can only lead to strained relations with the Stump Cross Caverns owners which in turn could endanger the access agreement.

The clerical problems experienced in connection with Birks Fell Cave also apply to Mongo Gill, especially clubs applying for permits during the "close season" which in this case is May, June and July each year.

D C MELLOR
24.2.82.

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

MEETS SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR AGM 1982

LECK FELL

This is a report of access events since the AGM of June 1980 as due to personal problems I was unable to attend the June 1981 AGM. During the last eighteen months administration of Leck and Casterton has been complicated by several matters.

Firstly, the untimely death of Mark Woodhouse in November 1980 after which I again took on the task of administering both Fells until the AGM in June 1981, when Casterton Fell was taken up by Peter Muckalt. I am still receiving the occasional permit for Casterton Fell via Mark's parents, which is rather distressing for them. People obviously do not read their CNCC newsletters.

Secondly, since the previous AGM I have changed my address as noted below, and thirdly, I should apologise for delay in dealing with permits during the summer but I was out of the area for over six weeks. The main problem with access on Leck at present is that clubs must book up at least six months in advance to be sure of a booking (and give alternative dates). More people are applying for mid-week bookings, which makes things easier. During the summer I aim to attempt to negotiate slightly increased access.

A S Hall
342 The Green
Eccleston
Chorley
Lancs
PR7 5TP

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS - A.G.M. 1982

PERMITS SECRETARY'S REPORT

Casterton Fell - Pippikin (Leck Fell)

Since taking over Casterton I have been able to offer 95% of the booking requested, with the result the fell continues to be fully booked at the weekends.

A big increase this year has been in the Top-sink - Pipp. and its variations, with Lancaster and County still being the most favoured.

Mid-week bookings are showing an increase from such as Whernside, school clubs and army units.

Mid-week pirates persist as do weekend ones, a fact that can only lead to access problems.

The problem of booking Pippikin and then using Link entrance still very much in the forefront. I can see the advantage but it's not playing the white man.

By the A.G.M. I Hope to inform the meeting of refencing of Bull Pot of the Witches.

P Muckalt
February 26th, 1982.

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

NATIONAL CAVING ASSOCIATION EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT - MARCH 1982

There have been four meetings during the year (2 in the Dales, 1 in Derbyshire, 1 in South Wales). Equipment Information Reports have been produced on bolts, karabiners, helmets and ladders. Failure Reports on various karabiner failures. Information reports in preparation include papers on: Corrosion of metal equipment, Wire-belays in SRT, Permanent bolts, The Italian-hitch, Knot strength in rope, Strength of Karabiners and Maillon Rapides, Shock-strength of Cows-tails. Current test projects include work on jammers, tape and rope under dynamic loads.

Topics raised for discussion in committee over the year have included: ropes, krabs, hangers, ladders, wire-belays, bolts, maillon rapides, dry-suit valves, jammers, CB boots, searcher lamps, bolt-platform, lightweight pulley, scaling poles, and many other smaller topics of interest.

Regular correspondence has been established with "Descent", "Caves & Caving" and "British Caver" in order to publicise widely those matters of practical value to cavers. The equipment committee is actively working with the country's leading manufacturers and distributors of caving equipment and much valuable discussion has resulted from this involvement.

Many enquiries from cavers on various equipment related topics have been dealt with over the year. It is hoped that as the work of the committee becomes more widely recognised and better respected, we will be able to provide cavers with much more vital information concerning the equipment their lives depend on.

THE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 1981

1980

INCOME

	313.00	Subscriptions	621.00	
	8.57	Sales of Access Book	7.73	
	392.88	Grants (NCA)	47.33	
735.92	<u>21.47</u>	Building Society Interest	<u>50.41</u>	726.47

EXPENDITURE

	22.25	Room Hire	8.90	
	50.00	Insurance	50.00	
	65.00	NCA Subscription	75.00	
	108.78	Printing and Stationery	135.97	
	126.98	Officers Expenses	67.17	
	40.60	Working Party	40.00	
	20.70	Audit	23.57	
	32.90	Emergency Telephone	48.45	
<u>667.21</u>	<u>200.00</u>	Donations	<u>-</u>	<u>449.06</u>

68.71

277.41

EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1981

ASSETS

	161.11	Cash at Bank	97.01	
	<u>389.46</u>	Burnley Building Society	<u>739.87</u>	
	550.57		836.88	
550.57	<u>-</u>	Less Creditor for Room Hire	<u>8.90</u>	827.98

REPRESENTED BY:-

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	481.86	Balance brought forward	550.57	
		Excess of Income over Expenditure		
<u>550.57</u>	<u>68.71</u>	for Year to Date	<u>277.41</u>	<u>827.98</u>

Prepared from and certified to be in accordance with the books and information supplied to us.

85 Church Street
Lancaster

Scott Wilkinson
Chartered Accountants

18th January 1982

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Address List as at April 1982

Applications for meets should be addressed to the relevant Meets Secretary.

MEETS SECRETARIES

Leck Fell

A Hall, 342 The Green, Ecclestone, Chorley, Lancs.

Casterton Fell

P Muckalt, 96 Low Lane, Torrisholme, Morecambe.

Birks Fell/Mongo Gill

D C Mellor, 9 South View, Farnhill, Keighley, West Yorkshire.

Penygent, Fountains Fell

I P Wilkinson, 5 Delph Drive, Clayton, Bradford, West Yorkshire.

Subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer.

TREASURER

G Barber, Whernside Manor, Dent, Sedbergh, Cumbria.

All other correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary.

SECRETARY

B J Smith, 15 North Street, Idle, Bradford, West Yorkshire.

Enclose s.a.e. with all enquiries, applications for meets, etc.