

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Annual General Meeting 16 March 2007

In the absence of the chairperson, R. Holmes was elected to chair the meeting.

Attendance

A. Speight YSS, Micheal Hale BSC/CRO, J.Sloane LUG, M. Hughes BPC, S. Leiberman RRCPC, B. Bond BCC/NMRS, R. Halliwell CPC. P. Halliwell CPC, L. Sykes LUG, R. Holmes DHSS, F. Hartley BCC/PCC, S. Beck BCC/CPC

1. Apologise for absence

G. Barber, P. Allwright, G. Jones

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Previously circulated. Accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matter arising from the minutes

FH was unaware of MD's request for conservation projects, FH to contact MD regarding this.

4. Officers reports

Chairman's report

The chairperson had tendered his apologies and had not submitted a report.

Secretary's report

The Secretary's had noting specific to report, however comments are in AOB

Treasurer's report

The Treasurer submitted a report, which is appended to these minutes; the committee accepted the accounts submitted. The CNCC committee thanked Pat and Rick Halliwell for auditing the accounts for the CNCC. LS reminded the committee of the position on BCA grants to CNCC for 2007.

Access and Conservation officers report

MD said that she is still actively involved in working with Natural Britain.

Training officer report (position vacant no report expected)

LS said that he was seriously taking on the training officer's role as he believed that there should be a more positive emphasis on training within the region.

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Technical group report

LS explained that the current impasse on anchor replacement was due to BCA Equipment & Techniques Committee setting up a series of test to ascertain the suitability of the new anchor system within the caves. BCA has now purchased three new TE6A drills from Hilti. LS is working actively within BCA E&T committee on finding an alternative anchor to the DMM Eco anchor that is now discontinued.

4. Meets secretaries reports

Leck Fell

There has been a number of comments over the past months regarding the access and permit scheme that operates on the Fell and other Fells. LS felt that cavers need to be reminded of a number of points that may help them understand the situation. CRoW act open access; this does not extend to cavers who enter caves. The permit scheme that exists is there for a number of reasons. 1 to ensure a degree of controlled access, this has a number of benefits, it ensures that only properly constituted clubs gain access to the more technical or more delicate cave systems, thus reducing damage and reducing the risk of rescue which the latter could have a knock-on effect for access (like 1963). 2 the access agreements were not agreed by the landholders but also the country's conservation bodies (effective conservation measure). 3 The access agreements whether they are draconian or out of date have maintained hinder free access since 1963, that fact alone must be a credit to the system. When there is a problem the Estate knows who to contact and the conflict is resolved speedily and efficiently. Clubs and cavers are rarely aware that anything has happened, and there about 6-10 cavers access related complaints from mainly two estate offices each year. The term 'game' was used, and although it is a legally binding agreement between the access body, the landholder and sometimes the conservation body, it is in effect a game we play to ensure the status quo. LS will write something to this effect for Descent but not refer to it being a game.

Casterton Fell

No report received. LS raised a question over the destinations board, SL explained that RRCPC has nearly agreed a 9 year lease period with their landlord and that they expected to undertake work at Bull Pot Farm this would include rebuilding the changing rooms and the front of the building where the information board was situated. LS mentioned that the information board and the destinations board did form part of the access agreement with not only the Bowring's but also the Shuttleworth Estate, therefore CNCC would either have to negotiate the removal of the destinations board or replace it. Regarding the information board LS thought that it was an essential piece of information on the Area and that as we had already received funding to replace and up date the original, that we should meet our obligations. SL agreed with this and RRCPC will have a consultation period on the destinations board and SL will keep us informed.

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Birks Fell

Report and break down of permit requests presented to the meeting, accepted by the meeting. Robinsons Pot club draw for 2007: NPC, Black Rose CC, Bolton Speleological Group.

Pen-y-ghent & Fountains Fell

Dale Head Pot is still blocked. Losers Pot is being added to the permit scheme for the area.

Other areas

6. Constitutional amendments

The constitution has been amended so that the post of assistant secretary is removed. Proposed RH seconded AS.

7. BCA report

BCA was not present no report was tendered.

8. Election of officers and committee for 2006

Chairman G. Barber, Secretary L. Sykes, Treasurer G. Jones, Conservation Officer M. Dunne, Training Officer position vacant. Committee voted in current officers for 2007

Current committee:

Bradford Pothole Club, Burnley Caving Club, Dent House Speleological Society, Lancashire Underground Group, Craven Pothole Club, Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club, Airedale Caving Club, Yorkshire Subterranean Society

9. Any other business

LS brought to the attention of the AGM of the current situation of some officers and club membership and the CNCC constitution on club representation on the committee and serving officers. LS suggested that the committee look at a new arrangement where the officers are nominated and accepted by the AGM to serve CNCC for next period; these officers will not be required to be a member of a separate club and can belong to the same club, or no club. Under the proposed arrangement CNCC officers would not have a vote and would be directed by the ordinary committee (club representatives). This would release 6 voting posts for 6 more clubs to be members of the ordinary committee. RH is to look at the constitution and suggest possible amendments

10. Dates and place of next meetings

Committee meetings at The Village Hall, Hellifield 20.00 start. June 22 2007, October 19 2007, January 18 2008.

AGM at Hellifield 10.00 start March 08 2008