

## **CNCC COMMITTEE MEETING 21.10.23.**

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **YORK UNIVERSITY CAVE AND POTHOLE CLUB**

The CNCC has received a request from Rebecca Hay and Adrian Turner, on behalf of YUCPC, asking for urgent assistance. Their SRT training facility is currently out-of-action, awaiting certain improvements and inspection. This will require approximately £5300.

Whilst the CNCC does not hold sufficient funds to cover this, the BCA may wish to do so. This might be in the form of an immediate grant, or an emergency loan followed by a grant.

Attached is a summary of what we know about the project. **Please read it in full.** If you need more detailed information, please let us know (preferably in advance of the CNCC committee meeting on October 21).

For information, this has already been informally discussed by the CNCC Chair with the BCA Chair, and by the CNCC Y&D Rep with the BCA Y&D Convenor.

#### **PROPOSAL 1**

This committee wishes to express support for YUCPC's project to revive their SRT training facility.

#### **PROPOSAL 2**

In the event of the BCA only partially funding the project, this committee approves in principle a contribution of between £500 and £1000.

#### **NOTE**

As YUCPC cannot use their own SRT facility at the moment, the CNCC is able to assist them in training their new intake of members.

This offer also applies to other clubs, through an open invitation on the CNCC website, to anyone who would like a bespoke workshop for their club:

*"If you have any specific training needs or requests then please do get in touch. For example, if your club/group would like a dedicated training event, let us know and we may be able to help or advise."*

## SUMMARY

York University Cave and Pothole Club was formed in 1981 and has introduced a large number of people to caving every year since then. They are very active and well managed, and one of the biggest student clubs.

The club prides itself on a high standard of training, made possible by the excellent training facilities at the university sports centre. These facilities are also available for other cavers, not exclusively YUCPC members.

The facilities include 14 ropes hanging from a girder, and another four ropes rigged from a selection of bolts on the wall, allowing for deviations and rebelay to be rigged. There is also a platform, which assists with training rescue techniques.

In 2015, assisted by generous funding from an alumni association called YuFund, the club had an additional 40 anchors installed allowing for more creative rigging and enabling the club to teach more cavers.

Due to a misunderstanding of the sports centre's commercial requirements for testing and inspection, the club had to suspend all training at the beginning of 2023 due to the anchors having not been pull-tested since installation.

Along with this, a number of the original anchors are self-drilling expansion anchors (spits), which do not meet industrial standards and need replacing.

The sports centre requires that all installed metalwork, ropes and slings are inspected by a recognised third party every year under the "Lifting Operations & Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998" (LOLER) regulations.

Fortunately the university and sports centre have been very understanding and helpful in trying to resolve the situation. However, due to existing renovation work, they are unable to assist with funding for this work.

YUCPC have worked with the University and sports centre, along with APEX Access Group to work out a plan for testing and inspection, as well as replacement of the spits and the slings over the girder, for which girder clamps are being suggested as a safer and longer-lasting solution.

APEX works with the university to maintain their access equipment on campus, and have a good working relationship. This existing relationship means they have already done the two-day site induction, which would increase costs with other organisations.

APEX have quoted £5,289.60 for the testing of 43 anchors, the installation and replacement of 17 anchors, the addition of 15 girder clamps and to inspect existing installed ropes and metal work. Mark Wright (caver and IRATA Assessor) has advised that the quote is reasonable.

Unfortunately, this is completely unaffordable through the club's own budget, and the university and sports centre are currently unable to contribute any funding.

The Students' Union may be able to provide a contingency grant of up to £1000.

YUCPC could manage £500, but this would be at the expense of necessary yearly equipment costs.

The club might be able to apply to the alumni association YuFund again, although they are not accepting applications until the beginning of the new year.

Funding for future yearly testing and inspection will be factored into the club's budget requests to the Students Union, and should therefore be funded without any external support.