

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Agenda for Annual General Meeting, 7th March 2015, Hellifield Village Institute, 10:00am

Reminder: All voting representatives of full member clubs must bring a letter of authentication. This should identify the bearer as the accepted voting representative of the club and should be on club letterhead paper and signed by a club officer

- (1) Apologies for absence
- (2) Acceptance of minutes from the 2014 AGM (posted on website)
- (3) Any matters arising from 2014 AGM
- (4) Officer/Co-opted Officer reports (to be online approx one week before the meeting)
 - a. Chairman's report
 - b. Secretary's report
 - c. Treasurer's report
 - d. Conservation Officer's report
 - e. Training Officer's report
 - f. Access Officer's report

- (5) Discussion and vote on whether to accept draft new constitution

The proposed draft constitution is available to download on the CNCC website meetings page. For background information please also see the December 2014 CNCC newsletter. This constitution has been proposed (Northern Boggarts) and seconded (Gritstone Club) at the January 2015 Committee meeting.

- (6) Discussion and vote on secondary constitution amendment (see **Appendix A**)

This amendment has been proposed (University of Leeds Speleological Association) and seconded (White Rose Pothole Club) at the January 2015 Committee meeting:

- (7) Election of CNCC Committee for the year 2015-2016 (See **Appendix B**)

By our existing constitution The CNCC requires 14 clubs to comprise the Committee.

All full member clubs were asked in early January to consider whether they would be interested in standing for CNCC committee, and encouraged if so to provide notification of

their intention to do so. Notifications received are shown in **Appendix B** and any statements provided to support these notifications will be circulated separately to full member clubs.

Clubs may also wish to announce that they are standing for Committee at the meeting.

If there are fewer applicants (as few as 10) and the new constitution is accepted, it is suggested we could proceed with a smaller Committee as allowed by the new constitution. If there are more than 14 applicants, including those providing notification on the day, and this cannot be resolved in discussion, an election will be conducted.

(8) Election of CNCC Officers for the year 2015-2016 (See **Appendix C**)

- a. Chairman
- b. Secretary
- c. Treasurer
- d. Conservation Officer
- e. Training Officer

All current full member clubs were asked in early January to consider whether any of their members would be interested in standing as a CNCC Officer, and encouraged if so to provide notification of their intention. Notifications received are shown in **Appendix C**. Individuals may also wish to announce that they are standing at the meeting.

If there is more than one applicant for a role, including those standing on the day, and this cannot be resolved in discussion, an election will be conducted.

(9) Countryside Rights of Way (CROW) Act update

A verbal update on relevant news regarding CROW will be provided.

(10) Should the CNCC actively promote access for individual cavers (CIMs/DIMs)?

This agenda item is only required if there is a majority 'yes' vote to item 6.

If Item 6 is accepted (see **Appendix A**), there will be no constitutional prohibition to individual cavers (CIMs/DIMs) applying for permits; the only restriction would be the reference to 'club' in our agreements. Should the CNCC, when opportunities arise, seek to have access agreements amended to allow individual BCA-member cavers access, and encourage landowners to support this? If the constitutional amendment in item 6 is accepted, it is important that the CNCC vote to decide our position on this, as many of our access agreements may be undergoing review over the coming year.

(11) Any other business?

Appendix A

Motion regarding the CNCC constitution

"Applications for permits will only be accepted from member clubs of the Council".

The proposal is to REMOVE this line from whichever version of the constitution is accepted

Overview

The new CNCC/Ingleborough Estate access agreement allows all BCA member clubs, CIMs and DIMs to apply for permits, in accordance with the Estate's wishes and previous practice.

However, our constitution states that we can only issue permits to member clubs (see line above).

This decision was taken by the Access Officer, with support from the Secretary, to proceed with the access agreement and accept that this is in contradiction to the constitution. Failure to do this would have resulted in the neglect of the landowners' wishes and a reduced access for non-club cavers.

Therefore, the proposal put forward here is to remove this line from the constitution.

If this were accepted at the AGM, there would no longer be a blanket policy in the constitution against non-club cavers getting permits. Instead, details of who can be issued with permits would be defined by each individual access agreement and landowner.

At present only the Ingleborough Estate agreement allows non-club cavers to apply for permits. All other access agreements between the CNCC and landowners specify clubs. Therefore, there would be no immediate impact of this change on who can apply for permits elsewhere.

A later agenda item (item 10) is to discuss whether the CNCC should promote and encourage DIM/CIM access with landowners when the opportunity arises. Given the rapidly changing nature of land access at the moment, this is something that would need to be decided immediately should this constitutional change go ahead.

Therefore, the matter of whether the CNCC should amend its constitution to enable individual cavers to apply for permits where access agreements allow, and whether the CNCC should actively encourage more agreements to include individual cavers, are separate votes.

Appendix B

Committee Elections

The current Committee and their figures for Committee meeting attendance:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Meetings attended (out of 4)</u>
Bradford Pothole Club	4
Burnley Caving Club	4
Craven Pothole Club	4
Earby Pothole Club	4
Gritstone Club	4
Lancashire Underground Group	3
Northern Boggarts	4
Northumbrian Speleology Group	2
Over and Under Caving Club	3
Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club	4
University Of Leeds Speleological Society	4
White Rose Pothole Club	4
Yorkshire Ramblers	1
Yorkshire Subterranean Society	4

Clubs which have provided notification (up to 5th February) of intention to stand for Committee 2015

Listed in chronological order of notification receipt, earliest to latest:

Re-standing:	Craven Pothole Club
Re-standing:	Yorkshire Subterranean Society
Re-standing:	Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club
Re-standing:	Gritstone Club **
New applicant:	York University Cave and Pothole Club
Re-standing:	Northern Boggarts
Re-standing:	Bradford Pothole Club
Re-standing:	White Rose Pothole Club
Re-standing:	Northumbrian Speleology Group **
Re-standing:	Lancashire Underground Group **
Re-standing:	Over and Under Caving Club
Re-standing:	Earby Pothole Club
Re-standing:	University of Leeds Speleological Association
Re-standing:	Burnley Caving Club

** These clubs have provided notification that they will stand, but have indicated flexibility about this

All statements provided to support these notifications will be separately circulated by email.

Appendix C

Officer Elections

Individuals who have provided notification of intention to stand as Officers in 2015:

Chairman:

Roy Holmes (current chairman) has provided notification of his intention to restand.

Secretary:

Matt Ewles (current secretary) is willing to continue the role if no other good candidates can be found, and has welcomed any other interested persons to come forward. A supporting statement will be supplied separately to all full member clubs.

Treasurer:

The current treasurer is not restanding. Notification has been provided by Pete Bann (former treasurer of Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team) of his intention to stand for the position. Pete has discussed his notification with the current Secretary and Treasurer. He has provided a letter to support his notification which will be supplied separately to all full member clubs.

Note that Pete will not be moving back to the North West of England until the end of March. Therefore, if Pete is elected, the current treasurer Glenn Jones would remain in position as a caretaker Treasurer until around the end of April to facilitate a smooth handover.

Training Officer:

No notifications received. The current training officer is not restanding.

Conservation Officer:

Kay Easton (current assistant conservation officer) has provided notification of her intention to stand. Kay has the full support of the outgoing conservation officer, Andrew Hinde.