

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 1983

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 12th March 1983 at Ingleborough Community Centre, Ingleton, at 3pm.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 1982 AGM (previously circulated)
3. Matters arising from minutes
4. Chairman's Report
5. Secretary's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Access and Conservation Officer's Report
8. Meets Secretaries Reports
 - (i) Leck Fell
 - (ii) Casterton Fell (attached)
 - (iii) Penygent/Fountains Fell
 - (iv) Birks Fell/Mongo Gill
9. Election of Officers and Committee
10. Matters relating to N.C.A. and reports from N.C.A. representatives
11. Any Other Business
 - (i) Insurance

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, C&A Officer, 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.

REMINDER 1983 SUBSCRIPTION, £4.00, IS NOW DUE.

Please complete details below and send with subscription to:- G Barber, Whenside Manor, Dent, Sedburgh, Cumbria (enclose s.a.e. if receipt is required).

NAME OF CLUB
ADDRESS
TO WHICH
CIRCULARS
ARE TO BE
SENT

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I seem to have done very little this year, except to deal with the routine administration. The Assistant Secretary, appointed at the last AGM, proved to be a non-person in that, after that AGM, he never attended a single meeting! This did not help to make things any easier.

I am extremely grateful to Andy Hall for taking over the role of NCA Executive Committee Member, a role I tried to fill, as best I could, in previous years. I have always enjoyed visiting the other caving regions to attend the NCA meetings, mainly because I have been able to fit in some excellent caving trips! I hope that Andy will be able to continue representing CNCC, in addition to his work as Access and Conservation Officer, a post which I feel is going to become increasingly important in the future.

I hope, at least, that the routine matters I have dealt with have been to the satisfaction of all member clubs, but I feel there is more to the post of Secretary than dealing with routine matters, and have not, this year, had time to involve myself in these other aspects.

Having successfully (at last!) proved my unsuitability for the post. I hope that a new, enthusiastic Secretary, full of ideas and with time on his hands, plus a real-life working Assistant Secretary who actually exists, can be found at the AGM!!

BRIAN J SMITH 1983

MEETS SECRETARY'S REPORT

Casterton Fell and Pippelin Pot

Applications for permits to Casterton Fell are more numerous than previous years.

Resulting on bookings of 100% at the weekends, a small increase on midweek no doubt helped keep things reasonable.

The points to dwell on for Club Secretaries:-

- (i) will clubs please give more thought to alternative dates when booking.
- (ii) a few applications are made only a week or two in advance, these usually have to be refused, due to the monthly list having been submitted according to the access agreement (Result - no permits).

May I thank all clubs and ask them to report any wall and fence damage, as any future increase on access may be endangered by wear and tear on the fell.

When parking, please leave access to the fell road for the farmers vehicles.

P MUCKALT 1983

C.N.C.C. REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT TO NCA EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

There have been three meetings during the year, in Yorkshire, Derbyshire and South Wales.

The Committee continues to request information on failures or 'near misses', relating to equipment, in the hope that there may be something to learn. The Dolly Tubs bolt at Alum Pot broke off, following a group having used it! This points to the general guidance of backing up bolt belays.

Instead of concentrating on investigating equipment failures, information has been produced which may help prevent accidents. Manufacturers of caving equipment continue to attend meetings as they often make useful contributions, despite suggestions that vested interests should be excluded. One example of the benefits of close access to manufacturers is the third bar modification to a rack made by Keith Lewis. Contact continues with Caves and Caving, Descent and British Caver magazines.

Much time was spent trying to establish what caused the rusting of several ladders. No definite conclusion was reached, though various letters written up in the Caving press caused problems. A statement on this matter will be available following the next meeting.

There is concern about equipment sold without adequate explanatory information. Two papers on the rack descender will be available shortly. One is a short warning about misuse, and the second a fuller information sheet. I have produced an information sheet on the Italian Hitch belay knot, which is arguably much safer than conventional body belaying.

The June B.C.R.A. meeting at Dent, on Techniques and Equipment, was largely given by Whernside Staff and Equipment Committee Members. Much of the information is not available elsewhere, and is written up in one volume of B.C.R.A. available now.

Finally, any interested people are always welcome to attend meetings, especially if they are willing to assist.

PAUL RAMSDEN 1983

CONSERVATION & ACCESS OFFICER'S REPORT

This new office was set up at the last AGM and I was elected without knowing its aims. After a year in the post I have decided on the following main aims for such a post:-

- (i) Act quickly regarding any problems involving access to caves in the North of England.
- (ii) Attend N.C.A. Conservation and Access meetings.
- (iii) Make people more aware of cave conservation of northern caves.

I think I have been partially successful in all three of these aims, (i) I have been looking into the problem of access to three caves in the last few months; Pippelin Pot, Boreham Cave and White Scar Cave. I will give a more detailed and up-to-date verbal report of these negotiations at the AGM.

(ii) and (iii) I have been to all three meetings of the N.C.A., C & A group since I took office. We have been dealing with a number of national matters. The most important are itemised below:-

- a. A conservation fund for emergency use has been set up to be run jointly by NCA/BCRA. I aim to have some say in the use of this.

- b. The film "Lost Caves of Britain" by Sid Peron is available for hire (£10.00 plus p&p). I have produced a review for "Caves and Caving" and an advertising circular for this film, which I would ask permit secretaries to send out with permits.
- c. Legal and Insurance matters:- The group has had liaison with the N.C.A. insurance officer regarding an N.C.A. public liability insurance scheme - similar to that set up by B.C.R.A. The scheme would need the co-operation of the regional councils to be set up.

Regarding the above matter, I feel that C.N.C.C.'s present public liability policy is inadequate to cover us in our various access agreements. I would suggest that either C.N.C.C. joins B.C.R.A. and makes it mandatory for member clubs to pay the insurance levy, or, that each member club must show evidence that it has public liability cover before permits are issued. This whole issue will be raised later in the AGM.

I should conclude by saying that new access negotiations are lengthy and need continuity from one year to the next - be patient!

ANDY HALL 1983

LECK FELL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The last year has seen another slight increase in the use of Leck Fell, with over 220 permits issued, due to increase in mid-week bookings. I would like to encourage this policy as much as possible as it takes the pressure off at weekends.

In June 1982, Peter Muckalt and I had a meeting with Lord Shuttleworth and Mr Brunskill, respectively the owner and farm manager for Leck estates. We reviewed the previous two years' activities and in general Lord Shuttleworth was pleased with the running of the access arrangements. We pointed out to him that a stile has been built on the opposite side of Ensegill Beck from Linle Pot and that Gavel Pot has been refenced; both by C.N.C.C. members. We also offered, at some time in the future, to refence both Deaths Head and Rumbling Hole. Since then, I have arranged a date of March 20th (Sun) to do this work (please meet at Cowan Bridge at 10.30 am).

Secondly, we also agreed to paint a sign on the car park at Lost Johns to discourage the parking of non-cavers who have been using the lay-by as a picnic spot or C.B. radio base. Please feel free - if you have a permit - and ask them to move on. Thirdly, we also discussed access to Pipplein and Linle Pot and I suggested that we might change the access arrangements for these as many cavers approach via Bull Pot Farm, and not Leck Fell Lane. Lord Shuttleworth seemed in favour of this and I agreed to pursue the matter.

ANDY HALL 1983

CHAIRMANS REPORT - AGM 12TH MARCH 1983

My apologies for not being able to draft this report in time to send out with the last meetings minutes.

The past year has seen a gradual improvement in the access field with the sale of Pen-y-ghent Estate to local farmers, and the increased access on Fountains Fell. Easegill and Leck still pose problems of overcrowding and pirating, but increased mid-week bookings have relieved congestion somewhat at week-ends. Our thanks to these clubs who have been able to grasp this opportunity and my own thanks to the meets secretaries for their unstinting efforts.

At previous meetings of the committee, comments have been made on the report of the N.C.A. AGM which contained acid criticism of this council's attitude to the national body. These criticisms are valid up to a point, but as C.N.C.C. represents northern cavers in general, without your support for your own council, it would be impossible for C.N.C.C. to represent your attitudes at N.C.A. level. However, I would stress that northern cavers are strongly represented as individuals on various N.C.A. committees. Although support was lacking at the July committee meeting when we were inquorate, the two meetings since have been exceptionally well attended.

To help improve our standing at N.C.A. (although I maintain that our region comes first), could I ask all full members to try and be represented at committee meetings in the future. Although only 13 clubs are represented at committee level, the views of every member club, and caver, are important. In the past, the committee has been elected from these clubs attending the A.G.M. and then made up by invitation to the required number from the remainder. I would like to propose that from this meeting on, that the committee should only be elected from those clubs actually attending the A.G.M, up to a maximum of thirteen.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow officers for their continued efforts during the year and to all those who have attended the various meetings.

Mick Rhodes.
11th March 1983

MEETS SECRETARY'S REPORT
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RIBBLESDALE AREA

1982 has been a busy and eventful year. The number of permits issued is slightly up on last year at 263. Most clubs are co-operating well by enclosing stamped addressed envelopes and alternative date.

Pen-y-gent Fell has seen a change of ownership of that part of the fell containing the Hull Pots and Hunt Pot.

The new owners have agreed to similar access arrangements as in the past but have also agreed to remove the closed season from these caves.

I took the opportunity of the change in circumstances to approach the Langcliffe Estate Office, over access to the remaining caves on their land (mainly Pen-y-gent and Dale Head). They have consented to remove the closed season from the access agreement.

I am pleased to report that there is no longer a closed season on any cave in the Ribblesdale area except Gingling and Hammer.

Access to Gingling has been increased from 30 to 35 permits and Hammer from 15 to 25 per year. Requests for permits for 1984 should be sent no later than January, 1984.

Mr. Coates will give clubs a another date if their visit is cancelled due to bad weather. They should call at the farm personally or give him a ring, do not write.

I feel that this year has seen an improvement in caver and landowner relations. I trust that all cavers in general will continue to respect the land and abide by the access agreements, thereby ensuring their continuance.

IAN WILKINSON 1983

THE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER 1982

1981

INCOME

| | | | |
|--------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 621.00 | SUBSCRIPTIONS | 668.00 | |
| 7.73 | SALES OF ACCESS BOOK | 6.75 | |
| 47.33 | GRANTS (N.C.A.) | 388.79 | |
| 726.47 | <u>50.41</u> | BUILDING SOCIETY INTEREST | <u>59.68</u> 1123.22 |

EXPENDITURE

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 8.90 | ROOM HIRE | 8.20 | |
| 50.00 | INSURANCE | 50.00 | |
| 75.00 | N.C.A. SUBSCRIPTION | - | |
| 135.97 | PRINTING & STATIONERY | 263.47 | |
| 67.17 | OFFICERS EXPENSES | 68.92 | |
| 40.00 | WORKING PARTY | 88.68 | |
| 23.57 | AUDIT | 27.60 | |
| <u>449.06</u> | <u>48.45</u> | EMERGENCY TELEPHONE | <u>68.42</u> 575.29 |
| 277.41 | | | 547.93 |

EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1982

ASSETS

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------|
| 97.01 | CASH AT BANK | 576.36 | |
| <u>739.87</u> | BURNLEY BUILDING SOCIETY | <u>799.55</u> | |
| 836.88 | | 1375.91 | |
| 827.98 | <u>8.90</u> | LESS CREDITOR FOR ROOM | |
| | HIRE | - | 1375.91 |

REPRESENTED BY:-

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 550.57 | BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD | 827.98 | |
| | EXCESS OF INCOME OVER | | |
| | EXPENDITURE | | |
| <u>827.98</u> | <u>277.41</u> | FOR YEAR TO DATE | <u>547.93</u> 1375.91 |

PREPARED FROM AND CERTIFIED TO BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BOOKS AND INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO US.

85 CHURCH STREET
LANCASTER

24TH JANUARY, 1983

Scott Wilkinson
 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS