

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 20TH JUNE 1981

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

After being elected Chairman of the Council at last year's AGM I spent the summer months thinking about my own role. Should I just chair meetings or try and contribute something objective? Unfortunately for you I decided on the latter.

For the first Committee Meeting in September I drafted a letter I had decided to send to the Caving Press about access problems. I was aware that this had been done by previous Chairmen, but not for some considerable time. The idea was supported by the Committee though they were sceptical of any success. At subsequent meetings in November and February, suggestions were made by various representatives which were incorporated in the final letter which was approved at the February meeting. The letter went to the editors of Descent, Caves and Caving, and Caving International in late March, which fact I reported to the Committee meeting in April.

The letter has only been published as yet, in Caves and Caving, Descent and D.C.A. newsletter, the response, though not overwhelming, has been heartening. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have written for their efforts and apologise for not replying as yet. My reason is that I wish to make certain proposals to this AGM, the results of which would regulate my replies. Firstly, I believe now is the time for CNCC to become more vigorous in its efforts not only to become known to all cavers, but to be of some assistance to those cavers not affiliated in any way to CNCC. One thought which crosses my mind is reporting our Committee Meetings in the Caving Press, a medium as yet not used to the full by us. In this way up to date information may be more readily available. I agree, entirely, that we should keep a low profile as far as the national press is concerned.

The second suggestion is the forming of a sub-committee to look into the whole question of our access agreements and try and formulate some course of action to make the job easier. Perhaps we could discuss this question further at this AGM?

At this point I would like to paraphrase the words of Fred Davies, Chairman of NCA at their AGM in March 1981. "NCA is a bureaucracy and very bad at doing things. It may be better to accept this and leave the real activity to the constituent bodies which we are not."

Finally may I thank all those who attended the four Committee Meetings held this last year and all those representatives on various bodies for their efforts and reports. My thanks are also extended to Brian, Alan and Derek for their efforts as well as Ian, Dan and Andy the meets secretaries, particularly Andy who has had an unenviable task following the tragic death of the Casterton Secretary, Mark Woodhouse, last November.

Mick Rhodes
Chairman

19th June 1981

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1981

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Council now has 164 member clubs, 37 are Full Members, 12 of these being represented on Committee. Of the Associate Members, 33 are College, School or University clubs and 54 are members of other Regional Councils.

At this time last year there were 146 member clubs, the increase therefore being well over 10% (but still lower than the rate of inflation?).

At this rate membership of the CNCC is forecast to reach 200 clubs by 1983, the Councils 20th anniversary.

Since there are only 52 weekends in the year it is inevitable that bookings for permits are going to have to be made further and further ahead. This in turn will no doubt lead to further 'pirating' by irresponsible clubs who can't be bothered to wait. And this is only for those few caves where access agreements are in force. In other caves the problems are going to be of overcrowding, rescues, damage to gates and walls, etc, all leading in turn to further access problems such as are being encountered already, e.g. in Littondale.

The North has, as yet, no 'locked' caves, and only a few where a charge is levied, but there are increasing signs that farmers and landowners are concerned regarding both (i) recompense for the use of their caves either for actual monetary gain or merely "wear and tear", and also (ii) their liability in the event of an accident or rescue from a cave on their land.

The former is likely to lead to more and more farmers coming to the conclusion that cavers should pay for either caving, walking across their land, or as has already been suggested by one farmer, for parking on their land. The latter fear is likely to lead to more caves being gated, or blocked.

These problems are by no means new, but we have yet to feel them in force.

B.J. SMITH
April 1981.

The text of this report is basically as presented verbally to the N.C.A. Annual General Meeting as the C.N.C.C. Regional Report.

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1981

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Council's funds have remained reasonably stable during 1980, ending up with accumulated funds of £550.57. The main help to this end being a grant of £392.88.

On the expenditure side the Council made grants of £50 to the cave rescue organisation; £150 to the Ian Plant Memorial Fund; Working party is made up of replacing stile at Irby Fell Cavern £38.50 and repairing stile at County Pot £2.10.

I will close my report by requesting that clubs try to pay their subscriptions nearer the beginning of the year.

D. SUDELL
HON. TREASURER

April 1981

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

85 CHURCH STREET,
LANCASTER.

EIGHT JANUARY, 1981.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS.

THE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER, 1980.

1979

INCOME

	275.00	SUBSCRIPTIONS	313.00	
	16.49	SALES OF ACCESS BOOK	8.57	
	134.64	GRANTS (N.C.A.)	392.88	
450.18	<u>24.05</u>	BUILDING SOCIETY INTEREST	<u>21.47</u>	735.92

EXPENDITURE

	10.11	ROOM HIRE	22.25	
	50.00	INSURANCE	50.00	
	65.00	N.C.A. SUBSCRIPTION	65.00	
	3.00	YORKS. SPORTS FEB.	-	
	105.09	PRINTING AND STATIONERY	108.78	
	156.29	OFFICERS EXPENSES	126.98	
	27.39	WORKING PARTY	40.60	
	18.90	AUDIT	20.70	
	1.00	SUNDRY	32.90	
	337.14	HANDBOOK	-	
773.92	<u>-</u>	DONATIONS	<u>200.00</u>	667.21
(323.74)		<u>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>68.71</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1978.

ASSETS

	251.58	CASH AT BANK	161.11	
	12.29	CASH IN HAND	-	
481.86	<u>217.99</u>	BURNLEY BUILDING SOCIETY	<u>389.46</u>	550.57

REPRESENTED BY :-

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	805.60	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	481.86	
		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		
481.86	<u>(323.74)</u>	FOR YEAR TO DATE	<u>68.71</u>	<u>550.57</u>

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

85 CHURCH STREET,
LANCASTER.

28TH JANUARY, 1981.

Scott. Wilkinson

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS.

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Report of the CNCC Representative on NCA Equipment Committee

There have been five meetings during the year (three in the Dales, one in Derbyshire and one on Mendip). Equipment information reports have been produced as well as those on Equipment Failures. Topics covered have been:

placement of 8mm bolts and rigging, karabiners, helmets, jumars, cmI ascenders, Maillon Rapides, wire belays, Bolt failures, Alloy Simond karabiners, ladder failures.

Work on the British Standard for caving rope has not progressed much because of hold ups on tests to be done by Leeds University.

The Committee continues to ask for reports from cavers on "near misses" as well as failures. It is thought that many accidents are the result of caver rather than equipment failure, hence the need for more information on techniques of using equipment. The Committee has invited manufacturers and retailers to attend, and would be glad to hear from anybody interested in any aspect of caving equipment and observers are always welcome, as feedback is essential.

Current projects include research into "permanent" bolts, U.T.S. tests on knots, karabiners and maillons, wire belays in SRT., corrosion effects on hardware and the use of the Italian hitch in Lifelining. These tests will cost money. We hope to approach the Sports Council and CCPR for grant aid on safety research.

Over the year there has been some misunderstanding mostly with CSCC particularly relating to place of meetings, circulation of papers for approval etc. It is hoped that the NCA AGM will have cleared up these political arguments which only detract from the Committee doing useful work.

Paul Ramsden

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

A.G.M. 1981

Report from CNCC Representative on NCA Conservation and Access Committee

'I attended two out of the three meetings of the C & A Group in the past 12 months - one in Derbyshire and the other on Mendip. Apart from an interchange of information on Regional access matters, there has been useful discussion on a number of topics of national interest. Through its representation on CCPR, NCA is trying to get the law amended, or clarified, with regard to landowner liability in view of its restrictive effect on access for cavers in some areas. A booklet on 'legal aspects of caving' is being prepared for circulation amongst caving clubs. A Cave Conservation and Access Fund has been set up to aid special projects and has already helped to complete production of the Cave Conservation Film which, it is hoped, will more than pay for itself from a television showing in due course.

Whilst I do not mind continuing to represent CNCC till the end of 1981, I feel that it is time for the Committee to appoint a new spokesman. I also think that the Council should reconsider whether it should elect an officer to deal with Access and Conservation matters, with authority to act promptly if necessary.'

Roger Sutcliffe

BIRKS FELL CAVE AND MONGO GILL HOLE

MEETS SECRETARY'S REPORT 1981

Birks Fell Cave

Bookings for this cave have been the most numerous yet and very few weekend dates are available for the present access season.

Provided there are no problems this year, it seems appropriate to put out feelers for a longer period of access annually.

Mongo Gill Hole

There has been an increase of bookings for this hole also, with a surprising number mid-week.

Problems are still being caused by cavers going to the hole without permits and parking in the Stump Cross Caverns private car park.

D.C. MELLOR

MEET SECRETARIES REPORT - RIBBLESDALE AREA

A total of 246 permits were issued, just three less than last year.

Penyghent Fell

Penyghent Pot remains the most heavily booked cave, but all clubs who offered alternative dates were accommodated. Some bookings are being made up to 18 months in advance. I do not feel that it would be sensible to accept dates further in advance than this.

The closed season remains 15th April to 15th June.

Washfold Pot

No closed season.

Magnetometer/Echo Pot

The farmer continues to charge a small fee for parking in his farmyard. There is no closed season in this area.

Fountains Fell

Permits available for Gingling and Hammer for 1981 were 30 and 15 respectively. These were all taken up and permits issued by Mid January. The open season remains between Easter and the end of November.

It was agreed in committee to donate £40.00 to the landowner to contribute towards the upkeep of the track and styles on route to Hammer and Gingling Holes.

This was in response to pressure from the landowner who wished to charge cavers for parking and crossing his land. It was felt that this would be an undesirable turn of events, and in any case too late to inform member clubs this year. Consequently the once only payment of £40.00 was agreed upon to maintain access for this year.

However, the problem will arise again next year and our policy must be decided upon.

Our options as far as I see them are as follows:-

1. Do nothing and allow the farmer to go ahead and charge for parking when permits are presented to him. This would entail a high degree of honesty and co-operation on the part of cavers if the access agreements were not to be endangered.
2. The council to charge for permits issued.
3. Continue to pay a contribution to the upkeep of the path etc.

The views of the A.G.M. would be appreciated.

IAN WILKINSON.

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Address List as at September 1981

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

MEETS SECRETARIES

Leck Fell

A Hall, 64E Manor House Close, Leyland, Preston, Lancs.

Casterton Fell

P Muckatt, 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, 35 South Edge, Shipley, West Yorkshire.

Subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer.

TREASURER

D Sudell, 33 Vincent Road, Nelson, Lancs.

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.