

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Final Approved Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 26th March 2022, Hellifield Institute

Attendees:

Name	Abbrev.	Affiliation	CNCC officer/co-opted role?	Voting?
In Person				
Nige Berry	NB	Peak Caving Club		Yes**
Ian Cross	IC	Bradford Pothole Club		No
Ric Halliwell	RH	Craven Pothole Club	Birks Fell etc. Meets	Yes
Alan Jeffreys	AJ	Grampian Speleological Group		Yes
Josh Young	JY	York University Cave and Pothole Club	Secretary	No
Pete Monk	PM	Northern Boggarts		Yes
Alan Speight	AS	Yorkshire Subterranean Society	Anchor Coordinator	No
Russell Myers	RM	Craven Pothole Club + BCA Chair		No
Adele Ward	AW	WRPC, YCC, NYMCC, CDG	Access Officer	No
Chris Camm	CC	White Rose Pothole Club		Yes
John Holloway	JH	University of Leeds Speleological Association		Yes
Gary Douthwaite	GD	Northern Pennine Club	Webmaster	Yes
Matt Ewles	ME	York Caving Club	PR & Communications /Excalibur Access	Yes
Andrew Hinde	AH	Gritstone Club	Chairman	No
Stuart Whitmey	SW	Earby Pothole Club		Yes
Sam Lieberman	SL	Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club		Yes
Harvey Lomas	HL	Yorkshire Ramblers Club		Yes^^
Kay Easton	KE	Bradford Pothole Club	Conservation Officer	Yes
Edward Easton	EE	Bradford Pothole Club + Northern Boggarts		No
Online				
Alison Fuller-Shapcot	AF	Elysium Underground Group		Yes

Andy Gordon	AG	Kendal Caving Club		Yes
Adrian Howden	AHO	Yorkshire Subterranean Society		Yes
Lyndon Easterbrook	LE	University of Leeds Speleological Association		No
Paulina Poterlowicz	PP	York University Cave and Pothole Club		Yes

** PCC were not able to vote until after they were accepted as a full member club in section 2.

^^ YRC were not able to vote until voting authorisation was provided, during section 8.

Total number of full member clubs present and voting: 16 (Quorum = 10)

Full member clubs not present (17 in total):

Airedale Caving Club
Bolton Speleo Club
Burnley Caving Club
Cave Diving Group (Northern Section)
CNCC Technical Group
Dent House Speleological Society
Durham Cave and Mine Club
Gay Outdoor Club
Gritstone Club
Lancashire Climbing and Caving Club
Lancashire Underground Group
Morley Potholing Club
Over and Under Caving Club
Pegasus Caving Club
Rubber Duck Caving Club
Sheffield University Speleological Society
Th'Owd Skool Caving Club

Numbering of sections in these minutes relates to agenda item numbering.

The meeting opened at 10:01am.

1) Apologies for absence

Tim Allen
Mark Richards
Liv Golby-Kirk
Stuart Clarkson
Ian Patrick
Pat Halliwell

2) Applications for Full Membership

- NB introduced the club as a newer club with a younger membership, aiming to introduce more people to the sport.

Acceptance of Peak Caving Club as full members:

Votes: 13 votes for, 1 abstention

3) Acceptance of minutes from the 2021 AGM

No issues raised.

Proposal to accept minutes of the 2021 AGM.

Proposed: ME

Seconded: PM

Votes: 15 votes for (unanimous)

Action: JY to issue final minutes.

4) Matters arising from the 2021 AGM

- The anchors have now been installed at Diccan Pot.

5) Reports

Chairman's report:

- Nothing raised

Secretary's report:

- JH expressed ULSA's concern about a lack of progress on the conflict of interest statement. JY explained that during implementation it became clear that there were several details which needed further discussion, and was scheduled for the June committee meeting.

Treasurer's report:

- Pete Bann is not yet on online banking.
- RH and Pat Halliwell have received accounts to begin their audit.
- AH appealed for ideas on how to spend out money, as there is a worry of it depreciating over time. RM said the CDG is looking to buy a compressor to keep in Ingleton.
- ME confirmed with AH that all of this year's deficit, due to unused training workshop spaces, was reclaimable from BCA.

Conservation Officer's report:

- Volunteers are needed to help sort out a collapse in Great Douk.
- SL has a list of materials needed for Wretched Rabbit work, estimated to cost around £800.
- RH gave an update on the CPC's completed work at Whitescar.
- SL asked about repairing the fence above County Pot, potentially requiring the path to be re-routed. AH explained that there could be issues getting permission from Henry Bowring. SL said RRCPC will approach him.

Training Officer's report:

- As there was a recent opening for an additional trainer, JH asked where the advert was sent out. ME explained that it went out on all the CNCC's media outlets.
- LE questioned why IP says training had been successful this year, despite running a deficit. ME explained that the deficit was small compared to the total expenditure of several thousand pounds. On the other hand, the courses had a great impact. This year around 25-30 courses had been run and feedback had been overwhelmingly positive. While a small number of courses were run with empty spaces, this was a learning experience to see what sort of courses there is demand for. It is clear that new to SRT courses are always full. AG highlighted that after the paperless surveying course he went on, IP had provided ongoing support and advice well after the course itself.

PR & Communications Officer's report:

- ME has received a report on the conservation work at the Grassington Mines, so will be able to publish some PR on that.
- JY read out a detailed report on the CPC's work at Whitescar. RH added that as the water level has been raised due to spoil, so the ledges can no longer be used. This means that swimming or boats are now necessary.
- ME still has lots of Caves & Karst books, and asked people to contact him if they know of any landowners, gamekeepers etc we could give them to. He also has some framed photos available to hang in any public spaces where they might have a good impact.

Webmaster's report:

- LE highlighted that the most downloaded caves only accounted for 3% of the total, which suggests that all resources continue to be well used. It highlights the need to continue putting as many topos and descriptions as possible on the website.

Meets Secretaries' reports:

- The Fairy Holes access agreement has been signed.
- RH appealed for more permit applications for Robinson's Pot.

Proposal to accept all reports.

Proposed: AH

Seconded: PM

Votes: 15 votes for (unanimous)

6 & 7) Election of CNCC Committee/Officers for the year 2020-2021

- AW introduced herself. She is a member of many different clubs and enjoys interacting with landowners and gamekeepers. This prompted a discussion of the current access issues at High Birkwith.
- AH said the landowner has added a locked gate on the way down to Nether Lodge, which indicates his attitude to having any members of the public on his land. ME suggested that any visiting cavers avoid the farm, use discretion, and leave politely if asked. While there are access rights through the yard, walking through wearing full caving gear would not be good for landowner relations. The landowner has also applied to remove the public highway through his land, AH believes that Tim Allen put in an objection to this at the time, but will check with him.
- AH highlighted that this will be his last year as chairman. He believes it is good to rotate the chairman every so often. He emphasised that no one should feel that the job is above them or too difficult, but is an achievable task thanks to the excellent team of officers. He urged anyone to come forward, or to have a work with someone they know who might be suitable for the role.

A break was taken while voting representatives completed the voting form. Committee and Officer elections were conducted simultaneously. Votes were counted by JY.

Outcome:

All standing Officers and Committee received a minimum of 3 votes and were thus elected.

Officers and Committee for 2022-23 are:

Officers

Chair: Andrew Hinde

Secretary: Josh Young

Treasurer: Pete Bann

Conservation: Kay Easton

Access: Adele Ward

Training: Ian Patrick

Committee

Bradford Pothole Club

Craven Pothole Club

Earby Pothole Club

Grampian Speleological Group

Kendal Caving Club

Northern Boggarts

Northern Pennine Club

Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club

University of Leeds Speleological Association

White Rose Pothole Club

York Caving Club

York University Cave and Pothole Club

Yorkshire Subterranean Society

The actual number of votes for each are not reported. All met eligibility acceptance (min. 3 votes). The number responses to the Google form was confirmed to tally with the number of voting representatives at the meeting.

8) Access to Birks Fell Cave and the impact of changes to BCA's Public Liability Insurance

- At the previous meeting it was decided that the CNCC would not offer any liability cover to the National Trust. ME will go back to them to say we can offer a memorandum of understanding, but no assurance of liability. They can choose to accept the expiring of the permit system at the end of March. ME was completely open about the situation.
- ME believes his usual contact has intentionally not replied, to allow the agreement to expire without resisting our open access. At the end of March we will discontinue the permit system and have a stance of open access, perhaps with some recommendations on the website.
- No one expressed any concerns about this plan of action.

Vote to ratify decision to withdraw from Birks Fell permit system.

Proposed: JH

Seconded: SL

Votes: 14 votes for, 2 abstentions.

9) Dates for the coming year

- Nothing raised.

15) Any other business

- RM said that the BCA. Had been contacted by the chairman of the Ukraine Speleological Association, who sent out an international appeal for support. In response to this, the BCA and BCRA put out separate statements of support. Many other regional bodies have supported these statements. AH said he would respond individually as the CNCC's BCA rep, rather than putting it to a vote.
- There was some discussion of the most appropriate thing to do, including suggestions of supporting refugees from conflicts around the globe, and of setting up a donation fund. It was decided that direct contact from CNCC to the Ukraine Speleological Association, giving a message of support from one caving community to another.

Meeting closed at 11:28 am

Summary of specific action items:

Individual(s)	Action item
Josh Y	Finalise 2021 AGM minutes
Gary D	Work with TC to incorporate the dye tracing database into the CNCC's web hosting.
Ian P	Re-draft his proposal regarding retrospectively adding anchors to the CNCC list of approved anchors.