

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on the 10th March 1984 at Ingleton Community Centre and chaired by M Rhodes.

Meeting opened at 3.05 pm and was preceded by a short committee meeting.

Attendance

M Rhodes (ACC), A Tate (YSS), M Pears (YSS), A G Barber (WM), L J Howard (BCC), B Bond (BCC), R Sutcliffe (GC), D C Mellor (CPC), M Blair (NWPC), J Heginbotham (NWPC), R James (RAF CC (L Div)), P Ramsden (WM, NCA Equip), M Redgrave (ACC), M D Burgess (NPC), A Hall (RRCPC), P Muckalt (RRCPC), D Shepherd (EPC).

Committee Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 27th January 1984 were taken as read, previously circulated.

There were no matters arising.

Applications for Membership

Welsh Scout Council Caving Group - seconders letter now received from Trent Poly CC. Dent Pothole Club from Associate to Full, passed.

Barnet Caving Group - Associate Membership accepted as already members of the CCCC.

Any Other Business

Letter received from Rubber Duck CC re: loss of red tackle bag containing 100m Edelrid 10mm speleo rope in Kingsdale Master Cave, January-February 1984. Any information contact secretary.

AGM

1. Apologies

B Smith (BPC).

2. Minutes of AGM 1983

Taken as read having been previously circulated. There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report

No reports were available before the meeting due to limited time from last CNCC meeting. MR apologised for this and all reports except Leck Fell and C & A were given verbally.

The Chairman read out his report. Taken as read.

See attached.

4. Secretary's Report

MR Read out a letter and report from B Smith. TAR. For report see attached letter.

5. Treasurer's Report

Given verbally.

G Barber gave his apologies for being absent November, December and January. Grants not received from NCA from 1983 or for 1984. NCA subs not yet paid for 1984.

£420 in subs have to be added to figures in A/C's, this being money received whilst Treasurer was on holiday. Also there should be around £4-500 NCA grant (83) to be added.

Subs received from Ashford Speleological Society (March 1984) already paid. G Barber will deal with this. G Barber stated his willingness to continue as Treasurer. 1983 accounts attached.

6. Conservation and Access Officer's Report

See attached.

Taken as read.

R Sutcliffe stated that no planning application is required in gripping projects. There were no further questions. The last paragraph dealing with Casterton Fell to be dealt with under Meets Secretary's reports.

Meets Secretary's Reports

a. Leck Fell

Report attached - taken as read.

Regarding the retirement of Mr H Brunskill, the council agreed with A Hall's sentiments about the help and co-operation received during his time as farm manager. It was decided to present Mr Brunskill with an Inscribed Tankard and also a token of appreciation for his wife.

b. Casterton

P Muckalt read out his report. Taken as read. See attached.

He did however stress to keep rigidly to access procedure and that no-one without a permit would knowingly be allowed underground.

c. Pen-y-Ghent/Fountains Fell

No report. Secretary absent.

d. Birks Fell/Mongo Gill

Given verbally by D Mellor.

He reported no real problems and stated that permits were being issued as requested.

7. Leck and Casterton Access Report

As reported in C & A report, a meeting was held on the 10th February 1984 with Landowners and Agent. They wished to re-write the whole access agreement. A written agreement is acceptable to CNCC. The Agent is not too keen on using the track from Lancaster for access to Pippikin and Link, separate permits may be required in the near future.

On the points raised in the report, there followed an open discussion and the general opinion was that any further restrictions on access should be opposed. However points dealing with special permission being required for surface digging and no uses of explosives above ground and special permission for underground blasting could be supported in principle.

Regarding footpath erosion, the CNCC agreed in principle to conservation measures as NCC and National Parks grants are available for such work.

Restrictions on numbers of cavers per permit were not thought workable and could lead to increased "pirating".

A further meeting is to take place in early summer and hopefully resolve the problems.

/OVER

Clubs were reminded that any fringement of the present access agreements could well jeopardise access to both fells for not just this but future generations of cavers.

A Hall will report to 'caving press' on developments.

8. Election of Officers

Chairman M Rhodes (ACC) proposed RRCPC, second YSS. Unopposed.
Secretary/Asst Secretary B Smith (BPC)/A Tate (YSS) to work together. Proposed CPC, second NPC.

Treasurer - A G Barber (WM), proposed RRCPC, second ACC. Unopposed.
Access and Conservation Officer - A S Hall (RRCPC), proposed ACC, second YSS. Unopposed.

All Meets Secretaries present wished to continue and were unopposed.

Casterton - P Muckalt (RRCPC), Leck - A S Hall (RRCPC), Birks Fell - D C Mellor (CPC).

I Wilkinson will be asked if he wished to continue as Pen-y-Ghent/Fountains Meets Secretary. There were no other proposals.

Committee will consist of the following:-

| | | | | |
|-----|----------|-----|--------|-------|
| CPC | Proposed | ACC | second | RRCPC |
| BCC | " | NPC | " | BCC |
| NPC | " | GC | " | YSS |
| GC | " | ACC | " | CPC |

D Mellor suggested that the 3 remaining committee positions should be requested from Full Member Clubs willing to attend meetings and contribute to council matters. Any club (Full Members) wishing to be on the CNCC Committee please contact B Smith (Bradford 615069) or M Rhodes (Bradford 496790) as soon as possible.

9. NCA

Equipment report taken as read to be circulated - attached.

G Barber reported on the rope testing programme and thanks received from D Elliot for financial support from the council.

Conservation and Access; rescue fund committee has not yet set a date for a meeting no further progress at the moment.

AGM Discussion

Whernside Manor will have a new management structure on the administration side from the end of March.

Decision taken to instruct councils delegates for NCA AGM to vote against CSCC proposal concerning the running of Whernside Manor as national training centre.

4 delegates to be sent to AGM - A Hall, P Muckalt, P Ramsden, M Rhodes, D Mellor, G Barber and A Tate hope to attend.

10. Any Other Business

Cheque given to YSS for work to cap Smeaton Pot, W Yorkshire. Full itinerary of work to be submitted to council on completion.

Date and place of next meeting - New Inn, Clapham, N Yorkshire 8.00 pm 11th May 1984.

Meeting closed at 5.35 pm.

/OVER

For information:- Clubs were reminded that any fringing of the present access agreements could well jeopardise access to both falls for not just this but future generations.

Secretary of British Association of Caving Instructors:- A Hall will report to 'caving'.

F Grant, 2 Elm Terrace, Scaleby Hill, Carlisle.

8. Election of Officers

Chairman M Rhodes (ACC) proposed RRCP, second Y22. Unopposed.
Secretary/Asst Secretary B Smith (BPC/A Jale) to work together. Proposed
CPC, second WPC.

Treasurer - A G Barber (WPC), proposed RRCP, second ACC. Unopposed.
Access and Conservation Officer - A S Hall (RRCP), proposed ACC, second Y22. Unopposed.

All Meets Secretaries present wished to continue and were unopposed.

Casterton - P Muckelt (RRCP), look - A S Hall (RRCP), Binks fell - D C Melfor (CPC).

I Wilkinson will be asked if he wished to continue as Pory-Ghent/Vountains Meets Secretary. There were no other proposals.

Committee will consist of the following:-

| | | |
|-----|--------------|-------------|
| CPC | Proposed ACC | second RRCP |
| BCC | " | " |
| WPC | " | Y22 |
| ACC | " | CPC |

D Melfor suggested that the 3 remaining committee positions should be requested from Full Member Clubs willing to attend meetings and contribute to council matters. Any club (Full Members) wishing to be on the CNC Committee please contact B Smith (Bradford 43069) or M Rhodes (Bradford 43679) as soon as possible.

9. AGM

Equipment report taken as read to be circulated - attached.

G Barber reported on the rope testing programme and thanks received from D Elliot for financial support from the council.

Conservation and Access; rescue fund committee has not yet set a date for a meeting no further progress at the moment.

AGM Discussion

Wharfedale Manor will have a new management structure on the administration side from the end of March.

Decision taken to instruct council delegates for NCA AGM to vote against CSEC proposal concerning the running of Wharfedale Manor as national training centre.

4 delegates to be sent to AGM - A Hall, P Muckelt, P Hamden, M Rhodes, D Melfor, G Barber and A Jale hope to attend.

10. Any Other Business

Groups given to Y22 for work to cap Scafell Pike, W Yorkshires. Full itinerary of work to be submitted to council on completion.

Date and place of next meeting - New Inn, Clapham, N Yorkshires 8.00 pm 11th May 1984.

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

I am pleased to report that at the 5 committee meetings which have been held since the 1983 AGM, attendances have been very pleasing. At not one meeting was there any danger of being inquorate as happened in the previous year. My thanks are extended to all those clubs who took the trouble to attend, and to all officers for their efforts.

Whilst the 12 months have been relatively quiet in terms of access problems (although pirating is still a problem on Casterton Fell), 2 items were raised at the pen ltimate meeting at Clapham and the last meeting at Skipton. The first was raised by C D G re: Boreham Cave where an access agreement with the farmer has failed to materialise. John Cordingley on behalf of C D G asked the Council to act with them to try and negotiate an access agreement. This matter was left with John to try and arrange a meeting between all concerned.

The second, and from the point of view of all caves in Britain, the most important was a meeting called by the landowners of Leck and Casterton. From what I have been told by Roger Sutcliffe (GC) three main points were raised, the full details of which I will leave to Andy Hall. Basically the owners want:-

1. A formal written agreement to include all three owners.
2. Reintroduce the close season on Casterton.
3. Reduce the numbers of cavers on each fell.

I am making no effort to pre-judge these issues, but would ask each of you present to consider the full implications of these points during the meeting. I will ask Andy to give a full report of the meeting in his Conservation and Access slot and, with your approval, suspend discussion until after the Meets Officers reports at item 8a.

I am again willing to stand for election as your Chairman for the caving, providing you are happy with my performances past.

M RHODES
9.3.84

SECRETARY'S REPORT AGM 1984

Last year in my report I apologised for merely dealing with "routine administration".

This year I apologise for not being able to attend the AGM!

Once again however I must point out that I have continued to deal with the routine tasks of Secretary of the Council only, and have not, for example, been involved in representing the Council on any of the NCA Committees, as in previous years. I hope that the routine administration has, at least, been to everyone's satisfaction.

Andy Hall has attended some of the NCA meetings on our behalf, in addition to his role as Meets Secretary and Access and Conservation Officer, and I would like to thank him for his efforts, and indeed thank all the Meets Secretaries for their work during the year. I seem to be getting fewer requests for permits addressed to me (which only involve frustrating delays whilst I pass them on) so the message must have got through at last. Perhaps having a stable group of Meets Secretaries for several years had led to this apparent smoothness of operation. Long may it continue!

Also this year, for the first time in a year or two, we have had a very efficient Assistant Secretary in the form of Alan Tate, who has carefully taken minutes at all meetings, and I would like to thank him also for his efforts.

BRIAN J SMITH
March 1984

CONSERVATION AND ACCESS OFFICER'S REPORT 1984

During the last six months I have been fully occupied with negotiations regarding access to Leck and Casterton Fells. These culminated at a recent meeting with the owners. They jointly expressed their wish to have one written agreement for the whole area, of which a draft copy will be sent to me in the near future.

The owners made the following points:-

1. The Council will have exclusive rights to the owners' land for caving.
2. The owners' want a closed season throughout the whole area.
3. Written permission for all surface work.
4. No use of explosives above or below ground.
5. The owners' want the Council to put some sort of control on the number of people using each permit.

A further meeting is to take place on the fell this summer to consider the erosion problems. They also wish to see evidence of our Public Liability Insurance.

AS HALL
March 1984

LECK FELL MEETS SECRETARY'S REPORT 1984

During the last year approximately 220 permits were issued for Leck Fell, which is a similar number to the previous year. More weekday permits are still being issued and this means that occasionally there are free weekend dates only a few weeks before the closing date at the beginning of each month. I am glad that clubs have been doing as advised and returning permits which they are unable to use for which I would like to express my thanks. A small number of clubs are still writing for permits during the closed season, April, May and June.

Since the new edition of Northern Caves Vol 4 was published several clubs have been applying for permits for previously less frequented caves, which are now recorded in the guide. In theory the present access agreement only covers the following caves.

Lost Johns System
Notts Pot
Short Drop Cave
Gavel Pot
Rumbling Hole
Long Drop Cave
Death's Head Hole

As a gesture of goodwill some members of RRCPC and myself refenced Rumbling Hole last June. Materials were supplied by the Estate.

We hope to refence Death's Head later this year. The farm manager Mr Brunskill, retires in May. I hope the Council will consider presenting him with a small gesture of our appreciation for the help he has given to cavers over the years.

A S HALL

Casterton Fell - Pippikin (Leck Fell)

Continuing the trend over the past two years, applications for permits are on the increase during mid-week.

This has not (regretably) stopped the overcrowding at the weekends by the activities of those who come without permits or disregard the agreed procedure.

Resulting in the landowner now feeling something will have to be done about this problem.

May I therefore ask member clubs to remind their members that no permit means just that:-

NO ACCESS TO THE FELL FOR CAVING

Those clubs with permits:

Remember access is for the entrance requested only.

Parking - The farmers still run sheep on the fell, so PLEASE think about it.

Do Not Block The Way.

P MUCKALT
March 1984

REPORT OF CNCC REPRESENTATIVE TO NCA EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

FOR CNCC AGM 10TH MARCH 1984

During the past year attendance at Equipment Committee meetings has been good from both representatives of constituent bodies and co-opted manufacturers/retailers. There can be little doubt that the close liaison with specialist manufacturers is particularly useful when things go wrong.

This year seems to have been the year of the recalls with Patzl, Troll and Caving Ladders all requiring recalls of certain items. It is fortunate that more accidents did not take place, with potentially dangerous equipment in circulation. It is necessary for the Committee to be informed of gear failures as soon as possible after the event to help prevent further accidents. As it is the Birks Fell accident may have been preventable if cavers with faulty gear had reported their findings to both the supplier and Equipment Committee.

This winter sees the instigation of an important research project into the properties of ropes and related equipment with regard to safety underground. In the light of current techniques this is a matter of some urgency in that cavers' lives are dependent on an area of equipment technology where very little is known with any degree of certainty. The initial project involving the co-operation of the leading rope manufacturers in Europe and America, the facilities and expertise of Whernside Cave and Fell Centre and the Textile Industries Laboratories at Leeds University, is supported equally by each of the regional councils of the NCA. This is a fine example of the NCA federation uniting the regional councils towards a common goal and more importantly, a concrete example of the regional council pursuing the interests of the cavers they represent. Hopefully this is no more than a beginning - for our part we intend to demonstrate quite categorically that as far as cavers' safety is concerned, this is the best money they have ever invested.

Finally, any interested cavers are always welcome to attend these meetings, especially if they are willing to assist in some way.

PAUL RAMSDEN

THE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER, 1983

| | | <u>INCOME</u> | | |
|---------|--------------|--|---------------|---------------|
| | 668.00 | SUBSCRIPTIONS | 597.00 | |
| | 6.75 | SALES OF ACCESS BOOK | - | |
| | 388.79 | GRANTS (N.C.A. 1982) | 417.99 | |
| 1123.22 | <u>59.68</u> | BUILDING SOCIETY INTEREST | <u>48.69</u> | 1063.68 |
| | | <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | | |
| | 8.20 | ROOM HIRE | 7.80 | |
| | 50.00 | INSURANCE | 50.00 | |
| | - | N.C.A. SUBSCRIPTION (1982) | 80.00 | |
| | 263.47 | PRINTING & STATIONERY | 204.14 | |
| | 68.92 | OFFICERS EXPENSES | 73.52 | |
| | 88.68 | WORKING PARTY | 126.19 | |
| | 27.60 | AUDIT | 28.75 | |
| | 68.42 | EMERGENCY TELEPHONE | 82.00 | |
| | - | DONATION TO C.R.O. | 100.00 | |
| 575.29 | <u>-</u> | N.C.A. ROPE TEST PROJECT | <u>101.00</u> | 853.40 |
| 547.93 | | <u>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</u> | | <u>210.28</u> |

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1983

| | | <u>ASSETS</u> | | |
|---------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------|
| | 576.36 | CASH AT BANK | 737.95 | |
| 1375.91 | <u>799.55</u> | BURNLEY BUILDING SOCIETY | <u>848.24</u> | 1586.19 |
| | | REPRESENTED BY:- | | |
| | | <u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u> | | |
| | 827.98 | BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD | 1375.91 | |
| 1375.91 | <u>547.93</u> | EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE | <u>210.28</u> | 1586.19 |
| | | FOR YEAR TO DATE | | |

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

85, CHURCH STREET,
LANCASTER.

1ST MARCH, 1984.

Scott. Wilkinson

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS.