

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Supplementary statements regarding the IC anchor to accompany

CNCC Committee meeting 17th January 2015, Agenda item 15

Please find below two letters received from Nick Williams and the CNCC Technical Group regarding the proposal by Sam Allshorn et al regarding the CNCC endorsement of the IC anchor. These should be reviewed in context with the proposal, which can be found in the agenda document.

Matt Ewles

Secretary, Council of Northern Caving Clubs



Date 05/01/2015

Dear CNCC committee

We would like to offer our support to the letter from Sam Allshorne asking for the CNCC committee to actively ask BCA Equipment & Techniques Committee to approve the use of the IC anchor in the caves of Great Britain.

We did discuss with Bob Mehew the use of the IC anchor in September 2014, and it is our view that the BCA Equipment & Techniques Committee will at its meeting in April 2015 approve the use of the IC anchor provided that the criteria in EN959 is met.

We accept that the decision that was taken to use the Bolt Products anchor as the replacement for the Eco anchor was taken and agreed by the BCA Equipment & Techniques Committee; but we also think that there should be a choice of anchors for regions to decide on usage. This would also help if the supply of anchors from Bolt Products is interrupted, or discontinued, it is important to have an alternative.

We know that BCA has invested in a large number of anchors from Bolt Products, but two types can be installed and the IC anchors' smaller hole will allow a quicker installation in those less accessible locations.



5 January 2015

My ref. 15D0065

Matt Ewles
Secretary, Council of Northern Caving Clubs
By e-mail

Dear Matt,

Adoption of IC anchor: equipment and insurance implications

Thank you for your e-mail of 27 December inviting me to attend your meeting on 17 January. Unfortunately, I regret I will be unable to be present in person since my wife is away and I will be on childcare duties.

I would like to offer the following commentary as information for the discussion at the meeting.

1. Adoption of the IC anchor for placement within the BCA Anchor Replacement Scheme.

Adoption (designation) of any anchors by the BCA Equipment and Techniques Committee (E+T) will be undertaken by the Committee in accordance with the technical performance criteria already established by the Committee.

I see no impediment to the approval of the IC anchor as a designated anchor within the anchor replacement scheme so long as it meets the technical criteria and its approval is requested by one or more Regional Council. I would observe that all current indications are that the IC anchor will meet the technical criteria and if designation is not requested by CNCC then I think it likely that another Regional Council will request it in the near future.

If CNCC wish to have an input to the designation process then they will need to send a representative to the E+T meeting at which it is discussed.

2. Insurance of anchor placers and placed anchors under the BCA Public Liability Insurance Scheme

There is no restriction within the insurance scheme which prevents anchors placed by individual members acting on their own initiative from being insured.

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Specifically, and for the avoidance of doubt, it is not necessary for any individual member to be 'approved' by BCA or a Regional Council in order for them to be insured for the placement of anchors (or any other fixed aid) under the BCA PL Insurance Scheme.

I would point out that it is clearly not in the interests of either the Association, its members, landowners or the wider caving public for BCA to seek to place any unnecessary limits or restrictions on the scope of our insured activities.

Furthermore, I strongly disapprove of 'insurance' being used as a reason or excuse for any particular decision or course of action: the insurance scheme is there to provide a back-up in the event of an accident and any lawful activity which the Association or its members decide is a useful or necessary part of the activity of caving will be insured so long as it is undertaken in a responsible manner and with due regard to professional or other guidance issued by competent persons.

While there are clearly sound reasons for trying to prevent the proliferation of superfluous or poorly placed anchors, insurance should not be used as a substitute for proper management in other ways.

I should be available on my mobile number, 07702 995135, should you have any questions during the meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Williams', is written in a cursive style.

Nick Williams
Equipment and Techniques Committee Convenor
PL Insurance Scheme Manager