

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Officers and Meet's Secretary Reports for 2nd July 2016 Committee Meeting

Chairman's Report

Once again I have had a reasonably quiet time since the last meeting.

Many Emails have been received and sent regarding access to Skirwith cave in Chapel-le-Dale, I will leave the details to our access and conservation officers.

I have been contacted again by SABIC-Europe regarding their high pressure ethylene pipeline to warn that potential digging operations must not be carried out within 50 metres of the pipelines. There is a map on the CNCC website, however the only location that could be a problem is near to Grassington, the emergency phone number is 0800 318 105.

Just for information the proposed extension to the Yorkshire Dales National Park becomes effective on the 1st of August (Yorkshire day) taking the YDNP west to the M6 motorway. This will bring Leck and Casterton Fells as well as the whole of Barbondale into the park, will this help with access? Time will tell.

Roy Holmes – CNCC Chairman

Secretary's Report

It has been a very positive several months since the last Committee meeting.

Simon and Sam with help from various volunteers have been powering away installing anchors, Tim, as our new Access Representative, has attended a meeting with our major estates to discuss access, and Kay and Andrew have been making the most of the Heritage Lottery project (working on a very worthwhile project which sadly cannot be reported at the moment). Martell attended the BCA AGM in the Hunters Inn, Priddy, to represent the CNCC (I wonder if we should have our AGM in a pub). As you will see from the Treasurer's report Pete has an excellent grasp on our finances and has sorted out online banking and removed us from corporation tax now that we no longer sell any rigging guide publications.

Much of the above is reported in the June 2016 newsletter which has been issued just a few weeks before this meeting and sent to all the usual places. There will be another in December/January. Please send anything you have for this to me at any time (no need to wait until December).

I am particularly keen to see how the fixed aid discussion at this meeting progresses. There is a possible opportunity for the CNCC to take a leading role in fixed aids in our region which could, if done correctly, provide a valuable service to northern cavers. We have already 'dipped our feet' by covering the costs of several fixed aids over recent years, so it is clearly something we must discuss. There are so many challenges, and maybe they will be too prohibitory. I am no expert in matters of Equipment and Techniques, so I have no idea what the outcome (if any) will be, but I think it is very important for the CNCC to consider such things. There are no proposals on the table, so this is very much a case of 'over to you' as the Committee to put forward ideas and suggestions.

Our AGM was, I feel, successful. On initial reflection I wondered if everyone seemed a bit subdued, with general agreement on all matters raised, not many questions, and the quickest CNCC meeting in years! On further reflection I have chosen to see this more as a sign of general contentment and to perceive this as a good thing rather than a bad thing on this occasion.

Following the AGM this year, we will be electing our first IC representative at the AGM next year. I have already ensured this is promoted via the BCA newsletter, the CNCC newsletter, and it has also been reported in Descent (not my doing...) so hopefully the message will get out that the position is available. Towards the end of the year I will also use UK Caving and ask Gary to get the social media machine switched on to ensure everyone is reminded of this opportunity.

Eurospeleo is just around the corner and I would appeal to anyone currently debating whether to come, to do so as this really will be a one off event. Gary and I are going to try to get a conservation stand organised for this as discussed at the AGM, and Pete Monk has already sent some excellent photos and text through. But we are finding ourselves terribly busy at the moment... something may have to give, and sadly it may be this, so apologies in advance if this happens.

I have been liaising with Nigel Steel who is putting together a cave archaeology 'toolkit' of useful information for anyone who might find any archaeology in caves/digs. Nigel has kindly agreed to be

a CNCC point of contact for such matters, and I will work with him and Gary to see that this information is made available via the CNCC website.

On request of the BCA insurance officer, I have supplied maps, landowner contact details and information about our access agreements for the BCAs new insurance company. This was, I believe, a one-off. We now have fully up to date public liability certificates for all of our access agreements via this new insurer, which I will forward to Johnny to check the details and for safe keeping.

The BCA emailed me to ask for a representative from the CNCC (as well as several other organisations) to liaise with regarding legal and insurance matters which may be changing over coming years. I am not sure where this is currently going, but Roy has kindly agreed to be a point of contact for this. If any matters arise from this they can be brought to the Committee attention.

Finally, once again, I would urge anyone with good ideas of what direction the CNCC should be taking over the coming years to consider standing for the Secretary role next March. This is my third year, and while I am not 'throwing in the towel', I would rather see someone with new ideas come into the role. Many of the things I wanted to see change about the CNCC have now changed or are moving in the right direction. Therefore, I think the CNCC could benefit greatly from someone with a new flood of ideas to work with the Committee over the next three years. I would be delighted to discuss this with anyone who might be interested.

Matt Ewles – CNCC Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Financial Status as of 25th June 2016:

Business Current Account: £1743.75
Business Saver Account: £18396.11

HMRC has issued a corporation tax demand for £0.00. This follows a short discussion with an accountant who assisted with the completion of the CT620 Corporation Tax form. There was no charge associated with this.

Since the agm, the following payments/receipts made:

£11.80 R Halliwell re access and postage.

£340.39 Kay Shaw re Katnot Cave expenses claims.

£59.13 Gary Douthwaite for the printing and distribution of the latest newsletter.

£500.00 Upper Wharfedale Cave Rescue Association towards Communication Equipment.

£120.00 Andrew Hinde for solicitors fees re Fairy Holes access.

£500.00 transferred from the savings account to top up the current account.

£500.00 Go Firebird First Aid Course (R Harper). Initial costing of £440 did not include the accompanying booklet issued to each attendee. It would be good to see full costs up front.

£75.00 received from Inglesport for the sale of Witches Cave surveys (25 surveys at £3 each – cut price to try and increase sales).

Approx £100 set aside for a banner and photos for Eurospeleo 2016.

Pete Bann, CNCC Treasurer 25th June 2016

Conservation Officer's Report

CNCC volunteers have received refresher First Aid training, and extra places on the course were made available to other interested cavers.

A team of CNCC volunteers stabilised the entrance to Slab Cave This short stream cave on the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve had a ramshackle cover of slate boskins balanced on tree roots and sky hooks, a hazard to livestock and visitors including the many scientists and researchers working in the surrounding meadows. Funding from the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership (Stories in Stone) and expert labour from CNCC volunteers have worked over a 3 day period in May to put a new stock proof cover over the open rift entrance.

The new cover will survive 500kg cattle/cavers standing on it (hopefully). It looks a bit brutalist at present, but it will soon develop a thick covering of moss.

Kay Easton – CNCC Conservation Officer

No other written reports received but verbal reports will be available at the meeting for positions and roles not covered above.

Meet's Secretary Reports

Ingleborough Estate and Aygill Caverns – Geoff Whittaker

Aygill Caverns

Nothing to report for Aygill Caverns.

Ingleborough Estate/Allotment and Newby Moss

To date a total of 32 BCA member clubs have requested permits with a further 10 requests coming from BCA CIM's/DIM's.

To date for 2016, from the 32 BCA clubs and 10 BCA CIM's/DIM's mentioned above, 121 permits have been issued, 96 were for BCA member clubs and 25 for BCA CIM's/DIM's.

There have been no issues raised from the Ingleborough Estate/Ingham and Yorke.

All other areas: Nothing to report