

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Agenda for Annual General Meeting, 9th March 2019, Hellifield Village Institute, 10:00am

Reminder: All voting representatives of full member clubs must bring a letter of authentication. This should identify the bearer as the accepted voting representative of the club and should be signed by a club officer. This letter may be provided electronically to the Secretary in advance. Please don't forget, as without this letter you will not receive a voting card!

- (1) Apologies for absence
- (2) Applications for full membership: No applications received this year.
- (3) Acceptance of minutes from the 2018 AGM: Draft available on CNCC website meetings page.
- (4) Any matters arising from 2018 AGM?
- (5) Officer reports (to be online approximately one week before the meeting)
 - a. Chairman's report
 - b. Secretary's report
 - c. Treasurer's report
 - d. Conservation Officer's report
 - e. Access Officer's report
 - f. Training Officer's report
 - g. Webmaster
 - h. Anchor coordinator/E&T representative
 - i. BCA representative
 - j. Meets secretary/online booking system

- (6) Election of CNCC Committee for the year 2018-2019

The CNCC requires between 10-14 clubs to comprise the Committee. All full member clubs were asked to provide notification of their intention to stand for Committee by the 12th January deadline (a requirement of the constitution). Notifications are shown in **Appendix A** along with supporting statements. No application has been received for the Individual Caver (IC) Representative.

- (7) Election of CNCC Officers for the year 2018-2019
 - a. Chair
 - b. Secretary
 - c. Treasurer
 - d. Conservation Officer

- e. Access Officer
- f. Training Officer

Notifications are shown in **Appendix B** along with statements.

(8) CNCC Mission Statement

The CNCC lacks a 'mission statement'. Although 'Working together for Northern Caving' has been in use for the past four years, this is more of a slogan. A mission statement may not add much towards our interactions with cavers who already know what the CNCC does. However, feedback from our Chair and Access Officer has been that such a statement would benefit collaboration with outside bodies who are perhaps not clear on what the CNCC does. A mission statement should summarise the mission/vision of the CNCC in a clear concise way.

Discussion at the January Committee meeting led to the belief that something like the British Mountaineering Council mission statement would be acceptable. Officers were tasked with coming up with something along those lines to put for approval (or revisions) at this AGM.

The suggested statement is shown below.

The CNCC is an open and welcoming organisation that represents caving and cavers in the north of England and Scotland.

As an exclusively volunteer-led organisation, we will:

- **Work to achieve the best possible access to caves.**
- **Establish beneficial relations with landowners and kindred organisations.**
- **Promote safe and responsible caving in parallel with cave and countryside conservation.**
- **Provide services and information to improve the accessibility of caving.**

(9) CNCC Involvement in British Caving Association Vision group

At the last two Committee meetings, it has been suggested that the CNCC could take a role in pushing for modernisation/reform of the British Caving Association. It seems that the best means for us to achieve this would be through participation in the BCA's vision working group, established at the 2018 Annual General Meeting and headed up by Hellie Adams. This is scheduled to report to the 2020 BCA Annual General Meeting. We have already enlisted the CNCC (represented by Matt Ewles) onto this working group and a first meeting is planned for March 2019.

Based on discussions between the CNCC Officers, the following ideas are put forward:

- ❖ **Universal membership (one member = one vote, no club/group voting).**
 - Would simplify voting and BCA structure.
 - Places emphasis on clubs to get their members to vote.
 - To be accompanied by the introduction of online voting (see below) thus making it easier for individuals to participate in the democratic process.

- ❖ **Improved clarity of BCA structure and simplification.**
 - Currently very hard to understand how the BCA works.
 - Aim to make the BCA an easier organisation to understand.
 - Ideas include better explanation on website, maybe an organogram.
 - Hopefully encourage more people to get involved.
- ❖ **Substantial rewrite of BCA constitution based on outcomes of vision group.**
 - Including critical re-examination of all points; not just tweaks.
- ❖ **Substantial overhaul of BCA website.**
 - Needs to be more modern, fresh and interesting.
 - Needs to appeal to existing cavers and interested non-cavers alike.
 - Should promote caving as a sport/hobby/activity.
 - Possible division of public and member areas.
- ❖ **Greater BCA self-promotion of what it does and why people should be members.**
 - Strategic use of social media and modern tech to engage with membership.
 - Better promotion of what the BCA does; and what benefits it brings to caving.
 - Efforts to build caver interest and support for BCA's efforts.
 - Evolution of the BCA newsletter.
- ❖ **Improving engagement with members via electronic voting.**
 - A means for all members to get democratically involved in key decision making at each AGM without physical meeting attendance.
 - Could be done via BCA online?

Do our members support these areas for improvement to the BCA, and thus give support to these initiatives being put forward under the CNCC name? This would happen either via the Vision group, or via direct motions should the opportunity for these arise.

(10) Dates for the coming year

Suggested dates for 2019-2020 meetings are presented below for discussion (and if necessary, revision). Please consider if you feel these are likely to clash with any events that could significantly affect attendance. These dates do not conflict with any currently published BCA dates.

Committee meetings:	Saturday 22 nd June 2019, 9:30am
	Saturday 12 th October 2019, 9:30am
	Saturday 11 th January 2020, 9:30am
Annual General Meeting:	Saturday 7 th March 2020, 10:00am

(11) Any other business?

Appendix A: Committee Elections

The 2018-2019 Committee and their figures for Committee meeting attendance:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Meetings with voting reps present (out of 3)</u>
Bradford Pothole Club	3
Burnley Caving Club	1
Craven Pothole Club	3
Earby Pothole Club	3
Grampian Speleological Group	2
Kendal Caving Club	3
Northern Boggarts	3
Northern Pennine Club	2
Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club	3
Sheffield University Speleological Society	1
University of Leeds Speleological Society	3
White Rose Pothole Club	3
York University Cave and Pothole Club	3
Yorkshire Subterranean Society	2

Clubs which have provided notification of intention to stand for CNCC Committee in 2019-2020

(Listed in chronological order of notification receipt, earliest to latest, total =14)

Re-standing:	Earby Pothole Club
Re-standing:	Northern Pennine Club
Re-standing:	Craven Pothole Club
Re-standing:	White Rose Pothole Club
Re-standing:	Bradford Pothole Club
Re-standing:	Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club
Re-standing:	Grampian Speleological Group
Re-standing:	Yorkshire Subterranean Society
Re-standing:	Kendal Caving Club
Re-standing:	Northern Boggarts
Re-standing:	University of Leeds Speleological Association
Re-standing:	York University Cave and Pothole Club
Re-standing:	Burnley Caving Club
Re-standing:	Sheffield University Speleological Society

Therefore, we have 14 applicants and 14 available positions. The entire 2018 Committee is restanding. We need to appoint at least 10 of these applicants to form a Committee.

No applicant has come forward for the Committee position of Individual Caver (IC) representative.

Appendix A (continued): Statements from clubs standing for Committee

Earby Pothole Club (Stuart Whitmey, Secretary):

The Earby Pothole Club is amongst the oldest caving clubs in the UK. Founded in 1945 we have had a long association with and have actively supported the CNCC since its inception.

Mainly active in the Northern Region, although small we have been involved in many successful digging projects, cave archaeological finds and conservation work with members taking part in numerous overseas expeditions.

Many members are also members of other caving clubs in the UK.

We would wish to continue this active support of the CNCC by continuing our position on the Committee.

Northern Pennine Club (Fiona Hartley, Secretary)

The NPC is one of the oldest and largest caving clubs in the UK, with 194 members. Founded in 1946 it has been responsible for some of the great caving discoveries in the Yorkshire Dales.

Although mainly an active caving club, the NPC also has many members who never venture underground, and we have a keen community of triathletes, climbers, walkers and cyclists. We also have a number of junior (under 18) members and run two well attended family weekends per year. The NPC has its base at Greenclose, just outside of Clapham, that provides a focus for its activities and accommodation for both members and guests.

The NPC will continue to support the CNCC in its many activities.

White Rose Pothole Club (Victor Wain)

We have seen some fantastic progress over the last years with the new website for bookings and we would like to be a part of the organisation and inputs in to the new and exciting projects that will be on the horizon for 2019.

Craven Pothole Club (Kevin Gannon)

*Registered Office: Ivy Cottage, Horton in Ribblesdale, Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 0HF
Registered in England 31935R*

Craven Pothole Club Limited

6th December 2018

Dear Matt

Re: Election to CNCC Council

The Craven Pothole Club wishes to stand for election to the CNCC Council at the forthcoming AGM.

The reasons for this are:

We have a large active caving membership of 243 members from all over the UK and the world. We had over 40 scheduled club caving trips last year in various areas of the UK (Dales, Mendip, North Wales, Scotland etc) all took place or were re located (due to weather) and were well attended. With 15-25 people taking part each weekend in one or other of a weekend of caving. This is without counting the numerous other caving trips that took place. We have an active group who are out digging for caves on a weekly basis both amongst members and with other clubs.

Our yearly Gaping Gill winch meet attracts cavers from throughout the country and the world (over 30 other listed clubs attended this years meet). Using our own club gear to descend and exit either by winch or SRT. It is also a much-appreciated showcase for caves and caving in the North.

Our Dales cottage is used by a number of university and climbing clubs introducing new people to caving and the north. Our members took part in all major caving conferences in the UK last year (Hidden Earth, RGS etc).

The current membership represents active members of cave and mountain rescue teams covering the whole of the UK (Dales, Mendip, Midlands and the national body).

We have an active conservation policy with membership involvement in Sell Gill, Ingleborough, etc. Finally the CPC is a long established Dales club (1929), are founding members of the CNCC and have actively helped the CNCC on many occasions in the past due to our extensive network of local people.

The club is keen to continue this long-standing contribution to the CNCC.

Pat Halliwell will be our representative for the CNCC meetings and if exceptionally she is unable to be present Steve Kirk will stand in.

Yours Sincerely



Kevin Gannon

Bradford Pothole Club (Ian Cross)

As a long established club, having a presence in the dales for over 80 years and with 300 members we are not only an active caving club in the Dales, but also have members participating in numerous foreign expeditions. Our members are also involved in exploration in various parts of the UK and in numerous conservation projects. We are able to offer clubs visiting the area from other part of the country accommodation and local knowledge. We provide an interface between cavers and the general public through our activities at Gaping Gill and support a number of local charities.

Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club (Sam Lieberman)

The RRCPC continues to be an active hub for cavers in the Dales with close links to other northern and visiting clubs. Our members are busy with conservation, digging, photography and surveying work and a good number of members are active in the Cave Rescue. Recent digging and hydrology work related to local flooding issues in Casterton village has raised the profile of our club and cavers in general amongst the local community and the club continues to be involved in promoting the benefits of cavers and caving both locally and beyond. We're also welcoming new members, not just from the visiting clubs but people living in the area with an interest in caving.

Grampian Speleological Group (Alan Jeffreys)

In furtherance of strengthening Scotland's position within CNCC, the Grampian Speleological Group wish to maintain a presence on the committee, both to supply a fresh voice on northern caving matters and also to promote knowledge of, and participation in, Scottish caves and caving.

Yorkshire Subterranean Society (Alan Speight): No statement provided.

Kendal Caving Club (Andy Gordon): No statement provided.

Northern Boggarts (Pete Monk)

The Northern Boggarts, a local northern caving club based in Clitheroe, is standing again for the committee for the CNCC in 2019. Our club has been on the committee since June 2009 and during this time has played an active part in promoting the interest of northern cavers. Our club has contributed to some of the CNCC Newsletters, helped with the design of a leaflet on digging guidelines and one of our members helped with the publication on the opening up of Shuttleworth Pot and Witches 2. Several of our members have been regular helpers with the Natural England cave conservation projects and helped publicise and make photographic records of many of these. Our club continues to play a lively part in the running of CNCC and two of our club members are officers in the CNCC. We are happy to play an active role in the CNCC and look forwards to your continuing support.

U
L
S
A

c/o 4 Willow Wood
Langcliffe
Settle
North Yorkshire
BD24 9NT

9th January 2019

Re: ULSA representation on the CNCC committee

ULSA would like to stand for re-election to the CNCC committee at the AGM this year. We have played an active role on the committee for five years, supporting improved access to caves for all cavers, and improving representation for DIMs. We will continue to ensure that the interests of student cavers are represented. In the Dales, our members are active in sports trips, digging, surveying, conservation and bolting. Many are also members of different caving clubs around the country. As a University club, we introduce many new people to caving. New cavers are the future of caving, and we would like to help ensure that the CNCC's good work will continue.

Many thanks

Lyndon Easterbrook

President, ULSA

York University Cave and Pothole Club (Josh Young): No statement provided.

Burnley Caving Club (Peter Wilson)



BURNLEY CAVING CLUB

President Raymond Haffner.
Chairman / Secretary Peter Wilson. Meets Secretary/Tacklemaster Paul Whittaker.
Treasurer Simon Mitchell.

10 January 2019

CNCC

Dear Sir,
Reference CNCC committee role club representative.
Please put Burnley Caving Club forward for a committee role representative at the
A.G.M. on the 9th March 2019.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Wilson

Sheffield University Speleological Society (Antonia Headlam-Morley, Chair)

As a very active club we find it great to know what is going on in the wider caving world. Sadly, I will not be able to attend the AGM as I am away as part of my Uni course, but I have put the feelers out to see if anyone from the SUSS committee is free to attend.

Appendix B: Officer Elections

The following individuals have provided notification of their intention to stand:

Chair: Andrew Hinde (re-standing)

Secretary: Matt Ewles (re-standing)

Treasurer: Pete Bann (re-standing)

Conservation Officer: Kay Easton (re-standing)

Access Officer: Tim Allen (re-standing)

Training Officer: No applicants

Secretary application from Matt Ewles:

If elected, this will be my sixth year as CNCC Secretary. I'm proud to perform this role and I consider myself privileged to be part of an organisation that has gone from strength to strength and which has made tangible benefits for northern caving for over 55 years!

My role has always been very much facilitative; ensuring documents are in place and clear to read; meetings are organised as they should be, minutes are accurate and easily available, constitutional requirements are upheld, and that the CNCC communicates effectively. I have also picked up a few 'pet projects' along the way including the newsletter and cave descriptions.

Fundamentally though, I see the Secretary as being here to support the other Officers; something I am happy to continue to do for another year.

I am also keen to continue for one more year to see a few key items to fruition; getting a CNCC display together for Hidden Earth and seeing the further implementation of the Online Cave Booking System to Leck and Casterton Fells (my role being purely facilitative in the latter and not wishing to detract from or take credit for the hard work of our Access Officer and Webmaster).

In the interests of getting new people involved, I would very much like to hear from anyone interested in taking on the Secretary role for 2020. Alternatively, I'd be keen to hear from anyone willing to take on an Assistant Secretary position (which can be co-opted at any time; this doesn't have to wait until 2020); either to help ease some of the Secretarial workload; or perhaps as part of a gradual transition to Secretary in due course.