

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting 9th March 2019 Hellifield Institute, Hellifield

Attendees in order of signature on attendance sheets:

Name	Club	CNCC officer/co-opted role?	Voting?
Matt Ewles	York CC	Secretary & Excalibur meets	
Andrew Hinde	Gritstone Club	Chair	
Tony Brown	Northern Boggarts	Bowland meets	
Pete Monk	Northern Boggarts		Yes
Kay Easton	Bradford PC	Conservation Officer	Yes
Alan Jeffreys	Grampian SG		Yes
Harvey Lomas	Yorkshire Ramblers		Yes
Ian Cross	Bradford PC		
Simon Wilson	Bradford PC	E&T Rep & Anchor Coordinator	
Tim Allen	N/A	Access Officer	
Mark Sims	Buttered Badgers PC		
Jon Beavan	N/A		
Michael Hale	Red Rose CPC/ CRO		
Mike Hawkshaw	NPC		
Stuart Clarkson	Morley PC		Yes
Nick Bainstow	Black Sheep Diggers		
Andy Gordon	Kendal CC		Yes
Geoff Whittaker	Th'Owd Skool CC	Leck/Casterton/Online meets	Yes
Andy Lindley	Th'Owd Skool CC		
Alison Fuller-Shapcott	Elysium UG		Yes
Robin Keith	Elysium UG		
John Helm	Craven PC		
Philip Judson	York CC/GOC		
Fiona Hartley	NPC		Yes
Victor Wain	White Rose PC		Yes
Ray Duffy	Red Rose CPC		
Stuart Whitmey	Earby PC		Yes
Sam Lieberman	Red Rose CPC		Yes
Ric Halliwell	Craven PC	Eastern/Northern Dales meets	
Pat Halliwell	Craven PC		Yes
Alan Speight	Yorkshire SS		Yes
Peter Wilson	Burnley CC		
Lyndon Easterbrook	ULSA		Yes
Gary Douthwaite	York CC	Webmaster	Yes
Andrew McLeod	EUSS/BEC/SWCC/YSS		
Josh Young	York Uni CPC		Yes

Total number of full member clubs present and voting: 17 (Quorum = 10)

All voting clubs provided advance (email) notification of their voting representatives except ULSA who provided a paper letter on the day of the meeting. The Burnley CC rep could not be issued with a voting card as no authorisation letter or email had been provided in advance of the meeting.

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

Full member clubs not present (14 in total):

Airedale Caving Club
Bolton Speleo Club
Burnley Caving Club (member present but non-voting)
Cave Diving Group Northern Section
CNCC Technical Group
Dent House Speleological Society
Durham Cave and Mine Club
Gay Outdoor Club (member present but non-voting)
Gritstone Club (member present but non-voting)
Lancashire Underground Group
Over and Under Caving Club
Pegasus Caving Club
Rubber Duck Caving Club
Sheffield University Speleological Society

The meeting opened at 10:03 am with a welcome from the Chairman.

(1) Apologies for absence

Pete Bann (Treasurer)
Maz and John Holloway (ULSA)

(2) Applications for full membership

No applications received this year.

(3) Acceptance of minutes from the 2018 AGM

No comments; the meeting proceeded immediately to a vote for acceptance of the minutes:

Proposed: Sam Lieberman

Seconded: Alan Jeffreys

Votes: 15 votes for, 1 abstention (Note; the York Uni CPC rep had not yet arrived)

(4) Matters arising from the 2018 AGM

The action log from the 2018 AGM was reviewed:

Summary of action items dictated or inferred from this meeting:

Individual(s)	Action item
Matt E.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Issue 2017 AGM minutes as final and 2018 as draft. DONE 2. Contact all full member clubs who have been inactive for at least four years to see if they still wish to remain full members. Meanwhile seek to encourage more clubs to get involved to replace them. <p>Matt Ewles updated everyone on this, as per his Secretary report, indicating that all clubs who could not be contacted and who had not participated since he had started as Secretary (5 years now) have had their membership revoked. Matt said that the CNCC Technical Group had contacted him in the past few days to confirm that they are still active and wish to retain membership, so their membership has been reinstated.</p> <p>Matt said how pleased he was to see two clubs (Elysium UG and Morley PC), who have not been involved in the CNCC for at least five years, to be back for this AGM and said he hoped they find the meeting interesting.</p>
Matt E, Simon W.	<p>Escalate the anchor reporting form; decision needed on content.</p> <p>With agreement from Simon Wilson, this item can be closed as it is no longer considered necessary as the cause of loose anchors has now been identified.</p>
Matt E, Pete B, Andrew H.	<p>Investigate possible ways to make Natural England a CNCC member.</p> <p>With agreement from Andrew Hinde, this item can be closed as it is no longer considered relevant.</p>
Tim A. and others	<p>Work to implement CRoW changes to website agreed at this meeting.</p> <p>Matt Ewles summarised this; all caves on CRoW land on the CNCC website have been indicated as such. Action complete.</p>
Gary D.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update Committee details on website. DONE 2. Look into possibility of advertising on CNCC website to raise money. Considered but not currently deemed necessary given current finances. 3. Continue testing and implementation of online booking system. Online booking system now fully implemented. See reports. 4. Investigate possible appetite for printed topos/descriptions. Currently looking into having printed topos/descriptions available to buy on the CNCC stall intended for Hidden Earth this year; Action: Continue work on this. 5. Update website with text regarding diving gear. DONE
David B.	<p>Work with CHECC to encourage greater interest in CNCC and possibility of clubs who are regularly involved in northern caving standing for full membership.</p> <p>David is now our CNCC representative to the BCA Youth and Development Group, thus helping us stay on board with student caver needs.</p>

(5) Officers reports

Chairman's report:

- Andrew Hinde added that he has a meeting with Patrick Holmes (Ingham and Yorke) and Ingleborough Estate trustees on 18th March to discuss digs on Ingleborough Estate. Andrew has already written to them to explain the situation; i.e. that only a few active digs are left. General consent exists allowing the Estate to authorise these, however, this may have expired in some cases.
- In total there have been 13 digs capped on Ingleborough (four during summer 2018) and only two major uncapped digs remain; the Thyme dig at Hurnell Moss and the Yorkshire Ramblers dig. Ric Halliwell added the Craven PC 'Sixpence' dig to this list.
- Andrew hoped to be able to revisit the terms and conditions of General Consent (in particular the details of what digging techniques can and cannot be employed) but in light of the recent Thyme dig incident (in which Philip Farrer was not pleased at the state he found this particular dig site) this was not a good time to be discussing such matters.
- Andrew has had a meeting with Miles Johnson from the Yorkshire Dales National Park archaeology department. Miles is very keen to meet cave explorers and is coming to the Northern Explorers' Forum in April where he will deliver a 10-minute presentation on what should happen if any archaeology is found in a dig. He has learned how to do SRT and is keen to get hands-on with cave archaeology!
- Tim Allen urged that re-emphasis is needed, e.g. on social media, for people to clear up their digs, as this is the only time many non-cavers get to see what we do; and it doesn't generate a good impression of cavers or our sport.

Action: Matt Ewles to issue social media article to reinforce the need to clean up digs.

- Andrew Hinde praised the efforts of Bradford Pothole Club, Early Pothole Club and Craven Pothole Club for their work done to cap digs; this is doing a lot to enhance our reputation.
- Gary Douthwaite appealed for any photos of any conservation works; if a short report with a photo or two is provided, the CNCC will gladly promote and acknowledge the hard work.

Secretary's report:

No questions.

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer has sent apologies for not being able to attend this meeting. Andrew Hinde commented that the CNCC is in a healthy financial state; but expressed concern that selling rigging topos and descriptions could open the matter of corporation tax again. Gary Douthwaite felt we should sell at cost price only, thus avoiding any corporation tax liability as no profit will be made.

Conservation Officer's report:

- Kay Easton said that there were two upcoming projects; Crackpot Cave and removal of wire fencing and scrap metal from a shakehole near P5/Christmas Pot.
- Kay is hoping to run a first aid course for CNCC conservation volunteers (8 places). The cost is £520, date depending on availability. This requires approval as it exceeds the £500 cap that the Treasurer can approve.
- Matt Ewles asked whether this can be claimed from the BCA? Pat Halliwell noted the Treasurer had claimed for similar last year so there was a good chance, although the higher cost/person may be questioned. Kay emphasised that this is a certificated course, hence the higher cost compared to previous courses. Gary Douthwaite asked whether we could ask for a personal contribution from individuals, but Matt felt that as this is aimed at our own conservation volunteers, it was only fair we offered to fully fund all costs.
- Tim Allen noted that BCA Training is heavily focussed on SRT and there is reluctance to support training that may contribute to people's own personal qualifications. They may be unaware that this claim would be to support health and safety in conservation; so might it be better to apply to the BCA C&A Committee for this funding?

Action: Pete Bann to investigate possibilities for claiming back funding for this course.

Proposal to accept £520 expenditure on First Aid training for conservation volunteers

Proposed: Pat Halliwell

Seconded: Stuart Whitmey

Votes: 17 for (unanimous)

Access Officer's report:

In addition to his report, Tim Allen confirmed that he has been working with the Leck and Casterton land agents regarding the online booking system. A reply had been expected from the Leck Fell agents by the time of this meeting, but nothing has been received yet.

Training Officer's report:

- Andrew Hinde confirmed that he and Kay Easton have picked up some of the responsibilities in the absence of a dedicated Training Officer. This includes the previously mentioned first aid training and the capstan winch training. Andrew questioned whether we really need a scheduled program of events and called for thoughts from everyone in the room.
- Alan Speight queried whether we need a Training Officer when so many clubs are running their own training events now? Mark Sims emphasised that clubs can apply directly to the BCA for funding now rather than going via the CNCC as an intermediary.
- Tim Allen expressed concern that without a dedicated Training Officer, we have no direct input or involvement with the BCA Training Committee. Alan Speight suggested that we should start pitching the role of the Training Officer as being a representative to the BCA Training Committee, rather than specifically organising CNCC training events.

- Matt Ewles agreed and asked whether we should think about scrapping the Training Officer role altogether, highlighting that we have struggled to get candidates to invest the necessary time for several years now. Matt said we were about to be in a position of having one of the constitutionally required Officer positions unfulfilled. Should we make this a co-opted role instead, with a primary focus on the BCA Training Committee involvement, to try to entice a volunteer? Ray Duffy suggested this may be better being called 'Training Coordinator'.
- To address the constitutional requirements for this year, Andrew Hinde suggested we put him down as the Training Officer. He stressed that this is purely to fulfil a constitutional need for the moment, and he is hoping to pass this job on as quickly as possible.
- Stuart Whitmey and Ric Halliwell suggested that clubs can be encouraged to organise their own events, claim via the BCA, but ask the CNCC to help promote their events.
- Alan Jeffreys felt that the kinds of training clubs should be offering could be broadened (e.g. to include archaeology and bat awareness). Tim Allen agreed, saying there is good value in courses other than just SRT.
- Matt Ewles exemplified the former two points by mentioning the upcoming Cave Surveying Group course due to be held at How Stean Gorge, where all places were very quickly taken. Matt felt that this is a good example where the CNCC has had on a very small involvement other than to cover the venue costs and promote the event, but as a result, we get our name associated to the event which is good for our publicity. Matt felt this situation had worked very well for the CNCC and for the event organisers.
- Tim Allen highlighted the ambition of the current BCA Chair to get all the BCA's various standing committees and working groups up and properly running. However, in order for this to work, the CNCC and other organisations need more people to come forward to take on various representative roles; there is insufficient resource amongst the CNCC Officers alone to take on this workload.

Action: Officers to research the possibility of removing Training Officer as a constitutionally required Officer position and seek to replace as a co-opted Training Representative, or Training Coordinator position to represent CNCC to the BCA Training Committee.

Anchor Coordinator's report:

- Victor Wain noted a typo in the report (paragraph 3; April 2019 should read April 2018).
- Andrew Hinde noted Simon's comment in his report that he is looking to step away from the role of Anchor Coordinator soon. Simon said that it is too much work to do on his own. Also, he doesn't want to get involved in supplying resin to people and he needs someone to help take responsibility for this (the new resin only comes in boxes of six, so would be best distributed centrally rather than all installers individually buying a box).
- Andrew asked whether Simon was planning to continue installing anchors and training new installers; Simon confirmed yes, however, the record keeping side of the anchor coordinator role was proving problematic. Recent anchor installations in Aquamole Pot using CNCC

owned anchors had not been properly reported and is causing him lots of issues at the moment chasing the information.

- Andrew asked Simon to send through a list of tasks he would like other people to cover. Simon clarified that the problem is that people think he is going to do everything; Andrew urged some delegation across the anchor installer group.
- Simon confirmed that he wasn't walking away, but that the current situation is unsustainable.
- Gary Douthwaite volunteered to distribute resin.
- Mark Sims volunteered to help look after anchor records, as it fits well with his BCA Equipment and Techniques Standing Committee convenor role. Simon said that the role of record keeping is very closely linked with supplying anchors, so someone will also need to take charge of supplying anchors. Alan Speight volunteered, as he lives locally.
- Simon confirmed that he wants to step aside from the key anchor coordinator jobs but wishes to remain involved in the engineering side (installing, training, design, testing, and replacing loose anchors etc) and is happy to remain as the CNCC's BCA E&T representative. The new anchor coordinator will need to take responsibility for keeping and issuing anchors, stamping them, and keeping records of installations.
- Lyndon Easterbrook asked for a show of hands of the number of trained installers in the room; 5, out of an estimated total of 9 across our region.
- Gary Douthwaite emphasised that we have already seen three people volunteer to take on some of the roles; and it would make sense for the anchor installers to communicate better to help share these jobs out. Gary suggested he set up a mailing list. Simon thought this was a good idea as it will also help the installers to share knowledge.
- Matt Ewles rounded discussions off by suggesting that Alan Speight, Simon Wilson, Mark Sims and Gary Douthwaite (and maybe other installers) work together offline from this meeting to come up with an arrangement ahead of the next Committee meeting.

Actions: Gary Douthwaite set up a mailing list for the installers, and all interested parties work together to see the Anchor Coordinator responsibilities distributed ahead of the next Committee meeting and report back to the meeting on the outcome.

- Alison Fuller-Shapcott suggested that as there are roles vacant it would be good to scope out exactly what these involve so that people volunteering understand what they are meant to do. Matt Ewles agreed, saying that the current job description of the Training Officer is already online, but any new positions that come up in either training or anchors would benefit from some wording to help potential volunteers understand the scope.
- With respect to the initiative put forward a few years ago to gather more data on loose anchors; Simon explained that more data/information was needed at the time, but as the cause of the issue is now known (resin shrinkage), he would rather prioritise time getting on

with replacing anchors that are reported via the traditional way, rather than gathering more information via a new mechanism. This action item can be discontinued.

- Pete Monk proposed a vote of thanks to Simon Wilson, which was unanimously supported.

Youth and Development Representative's report:

Matt Ewles explained that this report had been added after initial publication of the reports document and admitted his error in not having added David Botcherby to the CNCC distribution list so he wouldn't have known about any report deadlines. There were no questions on the report.

Webmaster's report:

- Matt Ewles emphasised a discrepancy between the webmaster and Geoff Whittaker's statistics on usage of the online booking system, saying that these were due to differing ways of calculating/presenting the data.
- Andrew Hinde said he was fascinated by the description/topo download statistics. Gary Douthwaite emphasised that these are much more accurate stats than ever before.
- Gary said that the online booking system video had been well-received, and he was hoping to do a video of the upcoming Crackpot Cave cleanup too.
- Fiona Hartley asked how the difference between unique and total downloads is determined; Gary confirmed that this is done by IP address.
- Pat Halliwell said that the new CPC Secretary was unable to download PDFs on their new non-Windows computer. Gary to investigate.

Action: Gary investigate why PDFs can't be downloaded on non-Windows computers.

Meets Secretary reports:

- Ric Halliwell emphasised that there are still three Robinson's Pot permits available and appealed for clubs to use them to justify the recently increased numbers.
- Alan Jeffreys asked for an update of the situation at High Birkwith. Tim Allen summarised the situation, including that there is now a parking fee (£10 for cars, £15 for minibuses) and this was the landowner's wish, but there is no fee to access the caves (you can park elsewhere and walk onto the land). Harvey Lomas asked if the National Parks have a view on this; Jon Beavan said that the National Parks have been looking into the legal definition of that road so it could be up for legal challenge. Alan Speight urged that getting the National Parks involved could make the situation much worse; we currently have free and open access to the caves; they are not on CRoW access land so access to the caves could be restricted if the landowner so wished. Harvey raised a concern that the new charges will mean people will park on Alum Pot Lane instead, causing congestion there. The situation needs to be closely monitored over the coming year or so to see what happens.

- Andrew Hinde raised attention to a dig Burnley Caving Club have at Birkwith. Peter Wilson confirmed that the diggers have diverted away, and some attention is needed. Peter agreed to investigate this.

Action: Burnley CC to investigate whether their Birkwith dig needs attention to make safe/tidy.

- A question was asked at this point as to whether there is a BCA representative's report; it was confirmed that there is not. Lyndon Easterbrook asked whether the CNCC will seek to cease further increases to the BCA membership fee while the BCA have so much money. Matt Ewles asked if Lyndon knew of plans to increase it, which he did not. Matt suggested that this would be something we would have to consider if/when this happens, based on justification put forward for such an increase.
- Matt Ewles ended the reports section by acknowledging the work of Geoff Whittaker, who as well as administering the online booking system, is also the permit secretary for Casterton and Leck Fells; a large amount of work. Matt thanked Geoff for his efforts.

Acceptance of all reports:

Proposed: Lyndon Easterbrook

Seconded: Alan Speight

Votes: 17 for (unanimous)

(6+7) Election of CNCC Committee/Officers for the year 2019-2020

Matt Ewles opened the elections by introducing the voting procedure.

All voting representatives had been issued voting forms with their voting cards at the start of the meeting (see end of document for a reproduction of the forms used). Matt asked that everyone add Andrew Hinde to the form as Training Officer applicant (as per earlier discussion) and noted that Burnley Caving Club had withdrawn their Committee application, so only 13 clubs remained.

Matt asked that all voting representatives were asked to complete their voting forms (Officer and Committee voting were performed simultaneously) and return forms to him. A break was taken while votes were counted by Matt, and independently verified by Pat Halliwell.

Outcome:

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

Officers and Committee for 2019-2020 are:

Officers:

Chair: Andrew Hinde

Secretary: Matt Ewles

Treasurer: Pete Bann

Conservation: Kay Easton

Access: Tim Allen

Training: Andrew Hinde (intended as interim measure)

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
Sheffield University Speleological Society
University of Leeds Speleological Association
White Rose Pothole 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 of voting forms returned was confirmed to tally with the number of voting representatives at the meeting (17).

Andrew Hinde reopened the meeting after the break. Matt Ewles confirmed the results.

(8) CNCC Mission Statement

- Andrew Hinde and Matt Ewles explained the background to this and emphasised that the Mission Statement in the agenda had been produced by the Officers, and he asked if there were any comments. No comments were raised, and a few clubs (CPC, ULSA) confirmed that they had discussed this and were happy with the statement.

There were no further comments/questions, so a vote was taken to support the adoption of the mission statement as presented in the agenda:

Proposed: Pat Halliwell
Seconded: Alan Jeffreys
Votes: 17 for (unanimous)

Action: Matt Ewles/Gary Douthwaite to get the new mission statement added to the website.

(9) CNCC Involvement in British Caving Association Vision Group

Matt Ewles provided a summary/background to this. The CNCC are participating in the BCA Vision working group. At the last few CNCC Committee meetings, it was discussed that the CNCC could try to take a leading role in pushing for modernisation, and several of the ideas presented in the AGM agenda arose from this, to be potentially put forward to the Vision Group.

However, the situation has changed slightly, as Matt is now standing as BCA Secretary and is planning to put similar proposals forward to the BCA AGM himself directly, rather than via the Vision

Group. Matt felt it would nonetheless be helpful to assess the feeling of CNCC member clubs to different routes of BCA modernisation to allow our BCA representative (Tim Allen) to know how he should vote with respect to any proposals put forward.

Andrew Hinde called for comments from all attendees:

- Matt Ewles provided a verbal summary of his planned proposal to amend BCA General Meeting voting by removing the two-house system and to allow voting only by individual members (i.e. all CIMs and DIMs), concurrently with introducing online voting.
- Pat Halliwell said that the CPC are opposed to removing the BCA Group vote. Their membership does not want the hassle of voting as individuals and would rather their club vote for them. Fiona Hartley said that the NPC are also against this. Pat suggested that a club should be able to put forward a 'block vote', the number of votes being proportional to the number of members that club is voting on behalf of.
- Alan Jeffreys expressed concerns about whether individuals actually want to vote.
- Andy Gordon commented that if they are to have a club vote, they need input from their members to allow their Committee to understand the situation. He didn't feel that it would be particularly onerous for their members to instead vote directly, assuming the club provides some guidance to help them understand the matters.
- Stuart Whitmey suggested that proxy voting would resolve the issue; Andrew McLeod commented that he had recently tried and failed to introduce proxy voting to the BCA.
- Sam Lieberman felt it didn't make sense for a club to deliver a vote on behalf of all their members, as these days many people are members of multiple clubs.
- Lyndon Easterbrook wondered whether a college style voting system (e.g. a club with 200 members has 200 individual votes) would work better. Matt Ewles felt that this still gave the same problems; clubs not necessarily representing the views of all their members.
- Pat Halliwell said that most of their members don't want to have to understand what is going on in the BCA. Kay Easton however was worried about club votes; if a motion is very contentious and only, say, 51% of club members support it, this is translated into just one club vote in favour; the 49% not in favour have essentially been disregarded. This effect would be exacerbated if the club were to have their vote weighted according to their membership.
- Alan Speight liked the idea of clubs having influence but didn't believe the two-house system works.
- Andrew Hinde asked if Matt Ewles wanted to comment here, as it would be his proposal to the BCA. Matt declined, as he was happy to see a wide range of views and concerns being raised here and did not want to bias matters by saying anything further.
- Andrew Hinde expressed concern about the BCA's use of club secretaries as a conduit to communicate with the majority of BCA members; this is problematic as it creates a 'squeeze

point' which prohibits communication. Andrew felt it would be much better if the BCA could communicate directly with its individual members, and if, in turn, these individual members participated directly in the democratic system. Andrew expressed his support for the proposal and felt it was a step in the right direction.

- Ray Duffy asked how the BMC get around this; Stuart Whitmey confirmed that they allow proxy votes, but many people use their club Secretary to deliver their proxy vote.
- Ray Duffy felt that voting as a club was unfair to many of their members who are involved in other clubs and who may not agree with the club position.
- Tim Allen concluded the discussions by asking, as CNCC representative to the BCA, how he should vote regarding the matters presented in the agenda. Can he assume broad support for all five of the less contentious items listed on the third page of the agenda?

Voting in support of the five items on page three of the agenda document:

Proposed: Pat Halliwell

Seconded: Alan Speight

Votes: 17 for (unanimous)

- Matt Ewles then asked if the CNCC membership could vote on whether they supported the proposal on the previous page about one-member-one vote. Gary Douthwaite suggested that this best be formulated into some proposal wording, which was then done:

“The CNCC supports introduction of individual member only voting at BCA General Meetings, and abolition of the two-house voting system, in conjunction with introduction of online voting for all BCA individual members.”

Action: Tim Allen / Matt Ewles to deliver CNCC support for modernisation/reform of BCA.

Proposed: Lyndon Easterbrook

Seconded: Alan Speight

Votes: 11 for, 2 against, 4 abstentions

(10) Date for the coming year

Matt Ewles asked for any concerns about the proposed dates to be raised within two weeks:

Saturday 22nd June 2019 (9:30am): Committee Meeting

Saturday 12th October 2019 (9:30am): Committee Meeting

Saturday 11th January 2020 (9:30am): Committee Meeting

Saturday 7th March 2020 (10am): Annual General Meeting

(11) Any Other Business

As had been communicated in the week ahead of the meeting, a discussion was initiated about the recent modifications to caves, including the non-stainless metal staples installed in Kingsdale Master

Cave (since removed with CNCC endorsement), the stainless metal staples installed recently on the Upper Trident climb in County Pot (since partially sawn off by persons unknown) and recent efforts to cap footholds into the entrance climbs of Wretched Rabbit.

- Andrew Hinde asked where people thought the CNCC should be taking a proactive role in such matters; there was consensus that we should.
- Gary Douthwaite commented that he (and a few others) can go up to County Pot after the meeting and remove the remnant metal stubs from the Trident climb and also evaluate the potential for restoration work to the walls at Wretched Rabbit. He asked whether this can be done with a CNCC mandate or whether it is something he is going to have to undertake as a personal project.
- Pat Halliwell asked whether the CNCC has a fixed aids policy; Matt Ewles confirmed yes, but it does not address matters such as this. Andrew Hinde argued that the cave conservation code should be considered a more appropriate policy under these circumstances.
- Andrew Hinde emphasised that there is no evidence that this is anything to do with the instructed caving community. Gary Douthwaite felt there was no point apportioning blame.
- Tim Allen felt we need to avoid condemning the actions. He emphasised that many actions damage caves including anchor installation, digging, shoring, scaffolding etc (citing the very recent work he was involved in to stabilise the entrance rift to Rift Pot) and so many people in the room will have damaged a cave in some way. The most significant thing is how that damage is perceived by the caving community. Andrew Hinde felt there is a significant difference between stabilising of a cave entrance and capping/stapling an easy climb for convenience. Tim reiterated caution in what actions we declare as being right and wrong, as we are not the cave police, and instead urged cavers to come to a consensus before taking unilateral action. Tim raised the example of how Dave Elliot was condemned for installing spits unilaterally many years ago, but the CNCC anchor scheme is widely praised as it is an open and democratic process.
- Andrew Hinde believed there are at least six locations in The Dales where these metal staples exist.
- Jon Beavan said that in the past many of these things were being done by clubs, so were easily attributable. However, now we are dealing with individuals acting unilaterally. Andrew Hinde urged caution in condemning the actions or painting the individuals as rogues; careful wording is needed in any proposal or future publication not to appear condemning.
- Gary Douthwaite submitted a proposal:

“The CNCC endorse work to make safe/tidy the remnant metal stubs at the County Pot Trident climb and assess options for repair at Wretched Rabbit.”

Proposed: Gary Douthwaite

Seconded: Fiona Hartley

Votes: 17 for (unanimous)

Action: Gary Douthwaite organise a team to address the Trident metal stubs and assess Wretched Rabbit damage.

- Pat Halliwell asked whether we should be emphasising the cave conservation code in the upcoming newsletter. Matt Ewles said he was already drafting a specific article on this. Pat suggested that, due to the delicate nature, this be circulated to the Committee for approval.
- Ian Cross suggested that something should also go on the website to clarify what actions we have taken.

Action: Matt Ewles to draft article and send round for review. Publish in March newsletter and include summary on CNCC website too.

- Fiona Hartley asked what would happen after inspection of the Wretched Rabbit climbs; would action be taken immediately or would Gary report back? Gary asked if people were happy for him to make a common-sense judgement; there was agreement for this.

Meeting closed 12:48pm

Summary of action items dictated or inferred from this meeting:

Individual(s)	Action item
Matt E.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Issue 2018 AGM minutes as final and 2019 as draft.2. Get the new mission statement added to the website.3. Continue work towards a CNCC display for Hidden Earth.4. Issue social media article to reinforce the need to clean up digs.5. Produce newsletter article on CNCC perspective and actions regarding metal staples/capping at Wretched Rabbit and send round to clubs for review prior to including in March newsletter and publication on CNCC website.
All Officers	Research the possibility of removing Training Officer as a constitutionally required Officer position and seek to replace as a co-opted Training Representative to represent CNCC to the BCA Training Committee. Consider amending job role and title on website.
Pete B.	Investigate possibilities for claiming back £520 funding for first aid course for conservation volunteers.
Gary D.	Investigate why PDFs can't be downloaded on non-Windows computers. Organise a team to address/investigate the Trident metal stubs and assess Wretched Rabbit damage.
Tim A. / Matt E.	Deliver CNCC support for modernising motions within BCA.
Anchor installers	Gary Douthwaite set up a mailing list for the installers, and all interested parties work together to see the Anchor Coordinator responsibilities distributed ahead of the next Committee meeting and report back to the meeting on the outcome.
Burnley CC	Investigate whether their Birkwith dig needs attention to make safe/tidy.

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Officer election voting form for Annual General Meeting 9th March 2019

Please read the supporting statements in the agenda before voting.

To vote for an applicant, put a cross in the box by the name of the applicant.

For any applicants who you do not wish to vote for (i.e. who you do not support taking up the stated position), leave the box empty. Although there is only one applicant per position this year, a vote is still required to show adequate support for each of the named applicants. Each must receive a minimum of three votes to be appointed to the position.

Voting is anonymous; this form is not traceable and individual votes are not disclosed.

Chair

X

1. Andrew Hinde	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Secretary

1. Matt Ewles	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Treasurer

1. Pete Bann	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Conservation Officer

1. Kay Easton	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Training Officer

No applicant	N/A
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Access Officer

1. Tim Allen	<input type="checkbox"/>
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COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Committee election voting form for Annual General Meeting 9th March 2019

Please read the supporting statements in the agenda before voting.

Put a cross in the box by the applicants who you wish to take a position on the Committee.

This year we received 14 applicants within the deadline and there are 14 vacancies on the Committee. One applicant (Burnley Caving Club) have since withdrawn their application.

You can vote to support the application of up to all 13 of the remaining applicants.

Each applicant must receive a minimum of three votes to be appointed.

Voting is anonymous; this form is not traceable and individual votes are not disclosed.

Clubs standing	X
1. Earby Pothole Club	
2. Northern Pennine Club	
3. Craven Pothole Club	
4. White Rose Pothole Club	
5. Bradford Pothole Club	
6. Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club	
7. Grampian Speleological Group	
8. Yorkshire Subterranean Society	
9. Kendal Caving Club	
10. Northern Boggarts	
11. University of Leeds Speleological Association	
12. York University Cave and Pothole Club	
13. Burnley Caving Club --- Application withdrawn 25/02/19	N/A
14. Sheffield University Speleological Society	