

**MINUTES OF THE CNCC AGM
HELD ON 3 March 2012
AT HELLIFIELD VILLAGE INSTITUTE**

The Meeting commenced at 10.00.

PRESENT: G. Jones (Treasurer), B. Bond (BCC), R. Holmes (Chairman), F. Hartley (BCC), J. Sloane (LUG), S. Lieberman (RRCPC), A. Hinde (GC/NE), M. Hughes (BPC), P.Halliwell (CPC), R.Halliwell (CPC), I. Lloyd (NSG), T. Brown (NB), Ray Duffy (RRCPC), Harvey Lomas (YRC), Alan Speight (YSS) Ceris Jones (LUC) Pete Allwright (DHSS)

1. APOLOGIES:

Les Sykes (Secretary), Pete Monk (NB), Michael Hale (BSC/CRO), Paul Swire (ULSA), Philip Judson (GOC)

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES:

The Robinson's Pot issue had been sorted.

4. CHAIRPERSONS REPORT:

It is proposed to extend Yorkshire Dales National Park westwards. Any objections should be made before 16th March

SECRETARYS REPORT:

Written report appended to these minutes. Accepted by the meeting.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Written report appended to these minutes. Accepted by the meeting.

Glenn sought advice on archiving of accounts and associated papers. For Inland Revenue purposes papers should be kept 7 years. Ric pointed out that all supporting papers were scrutinized by himself and Pat during auditing. The meeting **AGREED** that:

All papers should be kept for 7 years

The accounts and Treasurer's report should not be destroyed

Papers of historical interest over 7 years old should be offered to the BCA library

Other papers over 7 years old would be archived on computer and paper copies would be destroyed.

Glenn announced that Version 3 of the Rigging Guide, Volume 1, was now available, priced at £15. It is in full colour, with pictures of entrances. Volume 2 will be available in early summer. Over the next few months, Vols 1 and 2

Minutes taken by Kay Easton

Minutes Secretary Council Of Northern Caving Clubs

will be combined, together with extra information, and the combined version will be published in 2013. The per unit cost of Vol 1 is £6.50, so, even after the sellers' share, the publication will make a profit for CNCC.

Misty Mountain Mud Miners have approached CNCC for publication of the Shuttleworth/Witches Survey. It will be published on A1 for £5; profits will go to the MMMM digging fund.

CONSERVATION OFFICER:

Written report appended to these minutes and accepted by meeting.

Andrew has spent the allocation of £5000 on cave conservation work, but has been allocated a further £2000, to be spent within this financial year, enabling earlier payment of items that would otherwise be postponed. He has applied for £5000 for 2012-13, which he expects to be allocated but it will require a signed Memorandum of Agreement, which he has drafted.

Fay enquired about access to Spittle Croft Cave in Littondale; Andrew referred her to Dave Hodgson who is negotiating access.

Bernie referred to reports in the Craven Herald about police attendance to groups in Whitewell with the reported consequent closure of the cave. Tony said he would seek confirmation, but he believed the report was about Whitewell near Rossendale/Bacup (a non-limestone area) and not Whitewell in Bowland.

Ray Duffy alerted the meeting to a working party arranged for 14th-15th April to repair paths to Easegill.

ACCESS OFFICERS REPORT:

Report accepted by the meeting and appended to these minutes.

TRAINING OFFICERS REPORT:

Report accepted by the meeting and appended to these minutes.

TECHNICAL GROUP:

Written report appended to these minutes.

Glenn said that bolts were currently being manufactured and etched with identification marks. 2000 had been ordered, and delivery was expected in late March.

Sam asked about refresher courses in installation. Glenn said that the process was the same, but the need for refresher courses would be discussed at the next meeting of the technical group, along with re-validation procedures.

Notices had been placed on the first anchor in caves where the 70 pre-production Peco anchors had been placed.

The new anchors will be installed in new locations, with a notice on the Peco anchor to say it had been decommissioned. The newly installed anchors would be used for rigging while removing the old anchors, which was expected to be completed within 2 years. It was suggested that the old anchors could be irretrievably damaged as an alternative to removal, but Glenn maintained that the ideal solution (not least for aesthetic reasons) was to remove them.

5. MEETS SECRETARYS REPORTS:

Leck Fell:

Written report appended to these minutes. Accepted by the meeting.

Casterton Fell:

Nothing to report

Birks Fell:

Written report appended to these minutes. Accepted by the meeting
Permits to Robinsons Pot have been issued to the five clubs who requested them.

Penyghent and Fountains Fell:

Written report appended to these minutes. Accepted by the meeting

In answer to Malcolm's query, Glenn said there were no official p-hangers in Dalehead. Malcolm said he needed to check the hangers in Little Hull Pot following the reported rockfall.

Bowland

Written report appended to these minutes. Accepted by the meeting

Fay confirmed she had had no response from the Estate Office to request for access to Whitewell Pot/Hell Hole. Jim said it was the same land agent (although a different office) as for Leck Fell, and he also had had no replies to his last few emails. The meeting **AGREED** to refer the issue to the Access Officer with a view to negotiating access through the Keeper, without the need to involve the Estate Office.

Other Areas:

Andrew Hinde reported that the SSSI maps for Upper Dentdale were being revised using the GIS to clarify that Nirvana and similar areas were covered,

and thus enable NE to deal with pollution concerns.

9. BCA REPORTS:

There has been no BCA meeting since the February CNCC Committee meeting. The next meeting will be end March

Most Clubs' and DIM's cards have been posted. Glenn reminded the meeting of the principle that no caver should pay more than one contribution to the costs of BCA insurance and highlighted BPC's policy of a single membership fee, with no explicit insurance element, which had led to enquiries to Glenn as to why people were having to pay twice. After vigorous discussion, it was agreed that this was a matter for BPC, and Malcolm agreed to take it to the next BPC committee meeting.

Tony said he had offered to write a Northern News section for the BCA newsletter but there was a lack of clarity over submission dates. Glenn suggested emailing both the Editor (Mick Clayton) and Secretary (Damian Weare) with offers of a submission.

10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:

All committee members re-elected.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Alan reported there had been a delay in the bone dating as the Oxford University machine had broken down.

Ray Duffy offered thanks to all the CNCC officers – supported by the meeting.

Harvey Lomas asked sought funding for the new Nicola phone to the 3 northern cave rescue organisations, CRO, UWFRA and Swaledale Mountain Rescue – two "ends" per team at £250, making a total of £1500.

Pete Allwright explained that the new Nicola 3 had been tested, and two components interfered. That had been corrected, and a new test was scheduled for April 1st. If successful, two new prototypes would be produced and then tested, with production in late summer/early autumn. The cave rescue teams would need to make their own decision as to whether they wished to use Nicola.

The current Hey phones were coming to the end of their useful life, and replacement parts were no longer available. The only commercially produced Hey phones were £12000 per end. There was a French alternative, whose cost was similar to the Nicola.

It was proposed that, in principle, subject to successful tests and the cave

rescue organisations deciding to use the Nicola that CNCC would look favourably on a proposal to purchase 2 ends for each of the three teams. This was **AGREED**

Glenn asked about the eco anchors in Marble Pot – there was no information as to who had installed them.

Andrew Hinde referred to the deterioration over the past few year of the sediments in Victoria Cave, and said that Robert White, the National Park archaeologist, had proposed a methodology for studying the sediments. English Heritage had given consent and Natural England was expected to approve. The proposal included an informative barrier to protect the sediments and to guide the majority of visitors towards the right hand end of the cave. There was no intent to gate the cave.

The meeting closed at 11.26

12. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Committee meetings:

June 15 2012 in Hellifield at 20:00

September 28 2012 in Hellifield 20.00

January 18 2013 in Hellifield 20:00

AGM

March 02 2013 in Hellifield 10:00

Council of Northern Caving Clubs

Reports for

Annual General Meeting 2012

Secretary's Report

From a secretarial perspective there is very little to report as very little has happened since the last CNCC committee meeting.

The CNCC treasurer discussed with me whether or not CNCC was subject to tax on the profits that we make. I have spoken with my accountants regarding this matter and there are a number of possible ways forward.

CNCC can pay full tax on its income and tax on its interest in bank accounts. Or, the most beneficial to CNCC, would be to become a conservation charity. This does not require registration, but will involve some changes in the wording to the constitution. Looking at the documents that I have currently seen, we are already in effect a conservation charity that being an

organisation that spends its income on conservation work in the community and is run by volunteers.

At this moment in time I do not have all the facts, nor do I fully understand some of the compliance. What I propose, is that throughout 2012 I present facets of the conservation charity status at meetings, this we can digest in small chunks with the aim of making a decision on some constitutional word changes and take on conservation charity status at the 2013 AGM.

Having this status will also mean that we will not pay tax on the interest that CNCC accrues in the high interest account as we will have HMCR exemption. Whatever we decide it will need to be debated throughout 2012 as the question has been raised.

Access Officer's Report

There have been no changes to any of the access arrangements that have not been reported to the CNCC committee throughout the year.

After a discussion with the BCA training officer it has become apparent that cave instructors (CIC's) are using their clubs permits to deliver training and assessments for the CIC scheme on behalf of BCA. To avoid any insurance implications in the event of an incident during these training and assessments; I propose that the Committee accepts the following procedure. For CIC's delivering training or assessments under the BCA CIC scheme, the BCA training officer will contact the CNCC Access Officer with the date and location of the training, the access officer will then contact the relevant meets secretary who will issue the permit to the access officer who will then pass it on to BCA training officer. This procedure is only for CIC's operating in the north and is not open to the LCMLA scheme.

CNCC Technical Group

I have been informed by the MD of Bolt Products that the production of 2000 anchors is under way and should be available for delivery end of February / March 2012.

I have appended to this report (*see elsewhere on CNCC website*) the document which outlines the testing that was undertaken throughout the year by BCA Equipment & Techniques Committee and the CNCC Technical Group with the amendment that was noticed at the last CNCC committee meeting.

BCA Equipment & Techniques Committee

There is nothing to report as there has not been a meeting since the last CNCC meeting. The next meeting is 18 March 2012.

Training Officers report

Minutes taken by Kay Easton
Minutes Secretary Council Of Northern Caving Clubs

Due to my current work load for cavers and the CNCC I have been unable to fulfil this role during 2011. However, it is a role that I fully believe CNCC should undertake and I will try and run an event during 2012--2013. If any clubs want any training there is grant aid available from BCA provided they have a BCA CIC delivering the training. There may also be provision for CNCC to access grant aid from BCA, if this becomes the case I will run a rescue course for club trainers during this summer.

In the mean time if clubs have a designated training person could that person contact me so that I can initiate a forum to discuss club training and training delivery.

If any clubs want to run a training event and want advice send me an email I will be more than happy to get involved.

I am more than happy to be re--elected to any or all of the roles that I currently do. However, if there is a willing volunteer who wants to further their career and undertake any of the roles, then I am more than happy for that person to be elected.

Les Sykes
CNCC secretary
CNCC Training Officer
CNCC Access Officer
CNCC co--representative BCA Equipment & Techniques Committee

CNCC Conservation Officers Report Jan 2012

The last year has been successful in supporting CNCC volunteers who undertake conservation tasks. I eventually secured £5000.00 from Natural England via their SSSI Partnerships Program budget for 2011/12. I have applied to the same budget holder for a similar amount in 2012/13 to support the Northern Caves Monitoring Project.

I have prepared NE "consent" for 2 separate digs on Ingleborough SSSI and 2 digs on Stump Cross SSSI.

Information on pollution incidents in Upper Dentdale SSSI have been submitted to Natural England and Environment Agency. (Thanks to Roy Holmes for leading a site visit and providing vital survey and hydrological information) It will be tackled with funding from the Catchment Sensitive Farming Program.

I have delivered illustrated talks on cave conservation to Craven Conservation Group and Ingleton Overground Underground Festival.

A major collection of scientific data has been collected by Dave Hodgson and members of the CDG from Boreham Cave. This will be collated into the Littondale Caves Project. 3 Permitted trips per year have been negotiated for Boreham Cave with the landowners. These are issued by CNCC and administrated by the CDG. It is imperative that nobody endangers this access agreement which has taken 25 years to establish. Do not call at the farm asking for personnel permission. Contact CNCC or CDG for access details.

The conservation works at Cupcake Pot have been completed by a dedicated team from Northern Boggarts. The work was well reported and published in Descent Magazine. This was an exemplary piece of cave conservation undertaken during and after the exploration phase.

CNCC volunteers have been out in gruesome conditions to erect stock proof fences around open shafts at Large Pot/ Little Pot and Thorney Pot-Kingsdale. This work was requested by the landowner Mr Handley of Thornton Hall. He has lost several lambs each year at this location. Caver relations are much improved now. He is now open to requests for digging on his land if you speak to me (Natural England) in advance.

Ian Walker has begun a major restoration of the entrance to Crescent Pot with his team from Durham University and other individuals. About 6 days work have been completed so far. This is costly in materials and very hard work. The resultant improvements to the safety of the pitches are well worth their efforts on your behalf. A feature in Descent will conclude the program of works.

RRCPC have almost completed the clearout of rubbish from the bottom of Barbon Pot. Much stabilisation work has been done on the ledge below the chock stone. A fine clean washed shaft awaits future visitors.

I have edited a Cave Conservation Plan for Witches II . The final draft is just awaiting an updated survey of the Leck Beck Head sumps. It will be available as a large pdf file, with a few library paper copies.

I have purchased an ultra sound Bat detector for cave research projects. This will become the property of CNCC and distributed to any affiliated club undertaking research. Terms of use will have to be drawn up.

In an attempt to promote cave conservation to caving novices I have collaborated with John Gardner to produce a visitor guide to Great Douk Cave. A useful resource to Cave Leaders or anyone who thought there is nothing of interest in beginners caves. It is available as a pdf download from the Northern Caves Monitoring Scheme website, or as a waterproof A4 sheet from selected suppliers.

Andrew Hinde
Northern Caves Monitoring Scheme:
<http://www.northerncavemonitoring.org.uk/>

Report to CNCC AGM 3rd March 2012 - Leck Fell Access Agreement

During the last twelve months a total of 465 permits have been issued to 48 clubs and organisations.

The figures for previous years were as follows:

Year	Number of Permits	Number of Clubs
03/04	197	63
04/05	191	58
05/06	181	48
06/07	187	41
07/08	354	46
08/09	367	51
09/10	363	40
10/11	317	47
11/12	465	48

The increase in the overall number of permits issued this year relates to greater uptake not only within the exploration field (i.e. permits issued to the digging fraternity) but also for sporting access as well.

The new discoveries/routes on the fell are generating an increase in interest and demand for permits, which has been particularly noticeable from the beginning of this year. So far for 2012/13, 19 member clubs have been issued with permits. Moving forward, up to the commencement of the closed season there are now only two weekend permits free during March; both being on Sat 31st. All the rest have been booked up for some time.

When the fell opens again after the closed season, there is availability each weekend of July apart from Sat 14th, which is fully booked. For the rest of 2012/13 availability is good, but weekend date of 25th Nov is now fully booked and 21st July, 1st Sept and 3rd Nov 2012, all have only one permit remaining.

Clubs are asked to emphasise to their members that for all caving visits to Leck Fell, for whatever reason, a permit must be obtained. The access agreement issued is clear and cites no exceptions. Transgressions here will only adversely affect the good working relationships that have been built up

with the landowner and his agents, in relation to our activities on the fell. Now more than ever, with new and exciting tips to be had on Leck Fell, it is imperative that all concerned comply with what is set out in the access agreement.

Jim Sloane (CNCC Meets Secretary - Leck Fell)
18/02/2012

Council of Northern Caving Clubs

Meets Secretary's report for Birks Fell, Robinsons Pot and Mongo Gill

General

This is my 23rd year as access controller and I know of no problems regarding access to Birks Fell, Robinsons Pot or Mongo Gill.

Birks Fell

A year ago the National Trust informed me that, although they wished the access agreement to continue under the same conditions as now, they wished to see a more formal agreement drawn up in a similar way to Robinsons Pot. Since then I have heard nothing and the staff involved have all left. I have received 7 requests for permits for 2012, the same number as for 2011 at this time.

1977-22	1978-35	1979-40	1980-41	1981-50
1982-47	1983-52	1984-63	1985-46	1986-55
1987-44	1988-28	1989-32	1990-25	1991-41
1992-49	1993-35	1994-41	1995-39	1996-34
1997-35	1998-28	1999-32	2000-15	2001-0
2002-21	2003-27	2004-10	2005-12	2006-15
2007-17	2008-15	2009-10	2010-13	2011-12

Average number of permits per year for the last 10 years is 15 (15)

Robinson's Pot

After some difficulties the new agreement with the National Trust was finalized. It allows a maximum of 5 permits per year on the second Saturday of each month, June to October inclusive. Five requests for permits have been received, 2 from Clubs who have never had a permit and three from clubs who have previously held a permit. I propose that there is no need for a ballot and I simply issue the permits to these clubs.

Mongo Gill

The new access agreement with no closed season but no access on Bank Holiday Weekends appears to be causing no problems. One trip down Valentines Hole (the first for 8 years) had to be abandoned when the lock would not open. I have recently removed this padlock and the landowner has replaced it. This should enable the rescheduled visit for later this year to take

place. So far no permits have been requested for Great Expectations, one was issued last year. The connection with Stump Cross stream way remains well and truly blocked by a major collapse.

1981-28	1982-39	1983-39	1984-44	1985-24
1986-28	1987-29	1988-36	1989-38	1990-38
1991-36	1992-43	1993-34	1994-36	1995-20
1996-26	1997-0	1998-0	1999-22	2000-22
2001-5	2002-5	2003-3	2004-9	2005-6
2006-10	2007-6	2008-8	2009-10	2010-3
2011-8				

Average number of permits per year for the last 10 years is 7(6)

Ric Halliwell
15 February 2012

Council Northern Caving Clubs

A.G.M.report for Penyghent and Fountains fell 2012

2011 was my seventh year as access officer and in that time I have issued 454 permits an average of 65 permits per year. Last year was down with a total of 59 permits issued. There are 2 outstanding issues to sort. Dalehead pot; is it 'p' hung? And Little Hull Pot; has the first hanger on the last pitch disappeared with the wall?

I am having computer problems (it is old) but have kept up by using my new wife's. Please note My new address on the bottom of the report.

Cave	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Little Hull	10	8	9	7	10	19	12
Dalehead	0	0	2	4	6	5	3
Penyghent	11	8	24	23	17	20	16
Washfold	10	12	11	8	14	11	12
Hunt Pot	4	4	3	4	10	11	6
Gingling Hole	9	36	3	8	6	10	8
Gingling Sink	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Hammer Pot	4	3	8	5	4	6	2
Total	54	71	61	60	67	82	59

2012 looks like being a good year with 42 permits issued to date. I am willing to carry on as access officer for another year.

Malcolm Hughes
 4 Oakwood Walk Leeds LS8 2PG malcolm@hughes10.fsnet.co.uk
CNCC AGM 2012 Report for Bowland

I haven't given out any permits for Whitewell Pot during 2011.

In April 2011 we started to remove rubbish from Tip Wood but were stopped by the Estate Office who had been alerted to the possibility of dangerous substances there. Having got BCA insurance clearance for the removal of asbestos unearthed, the Estate Office is still withholding permission for further work, which has raised implications for rubbish removal on a much broader basis.

Currently, I issue permits for Whitewell Pot but not the other caves on Hall Hill. This is because the Estate Office wants to keep control of the area of land where there is pheasant rearing and shooting. However, even for Whitewell Pot I need to clear permission with the keeper before I can issue permits.

Recently, BCC wanted permits for all the caves on Hall Hill which meant they had to approach two people instead of one. Furthermore, in checking the Whitewell Pot permit with the keeper I learnt that it would be unlikely that the Estate Office wouldn't issue permits for Whitewell Cave and Hell Hole during the shooting season. BCC got their Whitewell Pot permit quickly but communications with the Estate Office were protracted and poor and I have yet to learn the outcome.

Given these circumstances it would seem sensible for CNCC to negotiate with the Estate Office for CNCC to give permits for all the caves on Hall Hill – and perhaps for those on the other side of the Hodder too. There are very few requests for permits and with the keeper effectively controlling access it seems unnecessary and unhelpful for the Estate Office to be involved.

Tony Brown
CNCC Meets Secretary Whitewell Pot
27 February 2012