

# COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

## British Caving Association

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### Agenda for Committee Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> September 2014, Hellifield Village Institute, 9:30am

- (1) Apologies for absence
- (2) Acceptance of minutes from the June Committee meeting (on website, please review)
- (3) Matters arising from the June Committee meeting
  - a. Cave digging guidance for SSSI: Working group report on progress
  - b. Any other matters arising or updates on actions from this meeting (finger bone dating, Skirwith Cave access, CHECC representative, amongst others).
- (4) Officer's reports
  - a. Chairman's report
  - b. Secretary's report
  - c. Treasurer's report
  - d. Conservation Officer's report
  - e. Training Officer's report
  - f. Access Officer's report
  - g. Technical Group report
- (5) Meets Secretaries reports
  - a. Leck Fell
  - b. Casterton Fell
  - c. Birks Fell/Stump Cross/Fairy Holes
  - d. Penyghent and Fountains Fell
  - e. Other areas (Excalibur, Bowland, Barbondale)
- (6) With the issuing of the QC opinion on the applicability of CRoW to caving, it may be worth the CNCC Committee and Officers revisiting this matter to discuss what actions have been, and could be required by the CNCC in response to this.
- (7) Kay Easton has been the CNCC representative to the UKCCEF (UK Cave Conservation Emergency Fund) for five years, ending in December. Jenny Potts has asked if we could nominate someone for the next five years. Kay is happy to continue subject to Committee

approval. If you wish to put yourself forward for this please contact the CNCC Secretary before the meeting if possible. More information at [www.bcra.org.uk/ukcccf](http://www.bcra.org.uk/ukcccf)

(8) Committee discussion on Treasurer's response to further questions on CNCC finances presented prior to the June meeting.

(9) Proposal received from Sam Allshorn (ULSA) for discussion, presented as received:

*'Alan Speight has over several meetings stated that he has a good relationship with the Coates family (Fountains Fell). If he, the meets sec for Fountains Fell and the access officer are in agreement Alan should be tasked by this council to see if he can improve the access arrangements for this fell.'*

(10) The constitution working group (Matt Ewles, Gary Douthwaite, Kay Easton, Ric and Pat Halliwell) have drafted a revised CNCC constitution, based on the scope set out in the June meeting agenda, and discussions at the meeting. This is to ensure the constitution reflects current procedure, add clarify and confirm process where this is currently lacking, and propose changes to improve the functioning and transparency of the CNCC.

A vote will be required upon whether to put this draft constitution to all full members at the AGM, either as it is (with selected options throughout), or with agreed changes. It would be very helpful to raise any areas of major concern with Matt Ewles ahead of the meeting.

The draft document is presented in two supplementary documents, in two forms:

**Supplementary document A** shows the draft constitution without any annotations.

**Supplementary document B** shows the draft constitution with annotations (in red) to explain the reasoning behind the changes and pre-empt as many questions as possible.

(11) Any update/actions required by CNCC on the 2016 International Caving Symposium?

(12) Proposal from Tony Brown (Northern Boggarts) to simplify the Leck Fell permit system for groups seeking multiple visits (see Appendix A).

(13) The BCA Conservation and Access Committee (C&A) met on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August (Johnny Latimer representing CNCC). One of the action items was for 'Regional reps to report back on the feelings of the Regions about the desirability of promoting caving'. My understanding is that this is how to balance promotion of caving with the need to conserve caves. We should discuss this and agree how the CNCC should respond.

(14) Reminder of date and time of next meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2015, 9:30am, Hellifield

(15) Any other business?

## Appendix A

### **Proposal by Tony Brown to simplify permits for multiple visits to caves**

Diggers often find themselves wanting to visit the same cave many times over a period of time, actual dates unpredictable. The permit system as it stands sometimes makes it difficult to accommodate diggers, and landowners on some fells are unhappy about the frequency of caving without permits. As it stands the permit system serves neither the cavers nor the landowners as well as it should. With the likelihood of Open Access in future, an improved permit system would not only help cavers, it could also ease landowner relations in the tricky times ahead.

There are a number of diggers on Leck Fell midweek in several different groups. These groups will tend to dig regularly in some loosely predictable fashion. I propose that the current electronic permit system be extended so that permits can feature multiple dates to cover all possibilities rather than just fixed plans. The permits would probably be used mostly by diggers but could apply equally to anyone seeking multiple visits to a cave. Multiple permits for the following month, issued only at the end of the previous month would ensure that a multiple permit system didn't interfere with the longer term planning of clubs compiling their meets lists. The permits would be given to nominated clubs in the normal way and the club would be responsible for ensuring that the permits were used in accordance with normal procedures.

Everybody would need to be aware of the system which would be advertised on the CNCC website and whenever permits are issued to clubs for caves on Leck Fell

Such as system could apply in places other than Leck Fell but Leck Fell is a good place to trial such a system given the number of multiple visits by diggers and the Estate Office's probably positive reaction to such a system.

A J BROWN

Northern Boggarts

18 August 2014