

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Officers Reports for 13th September 2014 Committee Meeting

Chairman's Report

Things have been rather quiet of late, however I have had a few enquires. Firstly from Nigel Atkins of DCA regarding access to Dow Cave. I believe the problem has been sorted and will leave it to our Access Officer Johnny Latimer to elaborate.

I have had a letter from SABIC UK PETROCHEMICALS regarding the Trans-Pennine Ethylene Pipeline. They are required to contact all authorities on a yearly basis. I have replied saying that there has been no problems to date but will bring the subject up at this meeting.

If you are digging within 50m of one of the pipes you are required to inform SABIC. All the contact numbers and maps are on the CNCC website or get in touch with me.

Roy Holmes – CNCC Chairman

Secretary's Report

Since the last meeting, much of my time has been spent working with the constitution team (Kay, Gary, Pat and Ric) to get the draft constitution prepared that we are reviewing at this meeting. It has been through five separate circulated versions within the team, numerous email discussions, and then a further version and discussions in response to comments. Needless to say I have now become fully versed in the use of 'Track Changes'. I would like to thank the team for their hard work, and I really hope that the new document meets the expectations of the Committee.

Further to this, with Johnny's agreement, I have worked with Bernie to finalise the new access details for Skirwith Cave, the details of which I have just updated on the CNCC website.

Most other actions from the last meeting have been completed, including advertising of the Treasurer vacancy on the CNCC website (mostly Gary's work, not me), and speaking with CHECC about ways forward for encouraging a representative to come along and contribute to the CNCC meetings, which they support. I will be speaking further with them about this at Hidden Earth.

The only item I have not completed is to contact Mike Cooper to thank him for funding the work to Lancaster Hole. I was particularly keen to see the work for myself before doing this, which I did on 31st August (a superb job), and I will get this letter sent in the coming few weeks.

I would like to advise that at the AGM in March I will not be campaigning to continue as CNCC Secretary, and I will not stand against any other good, enthusiastic candidate. Therefore I would encourage anyone interested in the role to come forward.

Matt Ewles – CNCC Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Financial Status as of 8th September 2014:

Current Account: £2,037.32

High Interest Account: £18,878.82

Key payments for this period include;

£858.00: CNCC Rigging Guide Vol. 2 reprint (100 copies)

£1,500: Grant to CDG towards the new Northern Sump Index (transferred from the High Interest account)

£240.00: Accountancy fees

Payments Pending;

£308.80: Corporation Tax (due week 3 September)

Admin; I have closed the Everyday Saver account that was mistakenly created in my name (rather than CNCC) and transferred the balance (£1.00) to the High Interest Account. Whilst on the 'phone to the bank, I asked about the best options for interest on the two high interest accounts and was advised that the Business Saver Account was the best option for earning interest in the future (currently both accounts have similar interest rates) so to take advantage of any future improvements in interest rates, and also to streamline the accounts for the next Treasurer, I have closed the CNCC Everyday Saver account and transferred the balance to the CNCC Business Saver Account.

Glenn Jones – CNCC Treasurer

Conservation Officer's Report

Since the last meeting the CNCC conservation volunteers have reopened Low Eglins Hole- Nidderdale at the request of the landowner. Access to this site had been denied to all for the last 5 years due to a local businesses dispute. After some careful approaches from Chris Fox, a negotiated access agreement for all recreational cavers was established. The cave will be locked but a key will be made available to any recreational caver who calls at the farm. Details of access will be circulated by the CNCC access officer via the website .The upper and lower cave entrances were fenced off at the landowners request to make them safe to the public and livestock .It is hoped that wider access can be negotiated in the future if things go smoothly.

I have secured funding from Natural Englands "Innovation and Partnership fund" totalling £2500.00. This is to support the Northern Caves Monitoring Project (NCMP) and associated conservation projects.

The Assistant Conservation Officer has made a valuable contribution to all areas of cave conservation and has successfully taken over supervision of some work parties to gain wider experience. Kay's organisational and administrative skills are also a huge asset to CNCCs work in this area. Work continues to establish wider contacts with potential volunteers. The regulars are amazingly enthusiastic and skilled in most areas we tackle, but some further training opportunities will be lined up- e.g. motorised and static winch operation.

I attended the Eurospeleo Cave Protection Symposium in Western Romania where I delivered a presentation on the work of the NCMP. This joint project between CNCC and NE was well received by an international audience of cave conservation specialist (most of whom are employed by their government department – who also own **all** the caves and administer access, or not). Hopefully we can take this audience to see some of our sites when they come to the Dales for the 2016 Congress.

I have assisted in the notification and consent of 1 cave dig on SSSI land since the last meeting.

I also have a first draft of "Guidelines for Cave Digging on SSSI's which I will circulate for any comments.

Andrew Hinde – CNCC Conservation Officer

Access Officer's Report

Dow Cave

A new access agreement has been made with the farmer whose land Dow Cave is on. We (CNCC) were unaware that he had withdrawn access a while ago due to a problem with a commercial group. The new agreement gives access to club cavers with no charge.

The agreement has been agreed and drafted but hasn't yet been signed and issued.

BCA C&A Meeting

I attended the C&A meeting in Worcester. The minutes of that meeting are on the BCA website.

Access Agreements

I've received three enquiries regarding publishing CNCC access agreements. Can the Committee consider these requests? Access agreements in other areas are published; do CNCC have any objections to making ours public?

Johnny Latimer – CNCC Access Officer

Training Officer's Report

The 'First Aid for Cavers' training course which is being provided by Firebird First Aid Training on 18 October 2014 still has some vacancies. The training course for 01 November 2014 is fully booked.

The two SRT courses that we programmed in were cancelled one due to the weather the other due to work commitments.

Kay Easton has enquired about some risk assessment training for the volunteers; I had mentioned in late 2013 that we did intend providing this training along with a basic manual handling course. I have asked Kay for numbers of volunteers for the training and some dates.

Les Sykes – CNCC Training Officer