

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

AGENDA FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

16 March 2024 at 10:00am

In order to vote, club representatives will need to be authorised in writing by a club officer. This should be provided to the CNCC Secretary, in advance of the meeting.

- 1.0 Apologies for absence, and verification of quorum.
- 2.0 Declaration of conflicts of interest
- 3.0 Applications for full membership
 - 3.1 Birmingham Student Caving Club (Appendix A)
 - 3.2 Ulster Speleological Society & Caving Club (Appendix B)
- 4.0 Proposals for constitutional amendments
 - 4.1 Individual Caver Representative (Appendix C)
 - 4.2 CNCC Name Change (Appendix D)
- 5.0 Acceptance of minutes from 2023 AGM
 - 5.1 Matters arising (and updates) from 2023 AGM

OFFICER	ACTION	UPDATE
Josh Y	Finalise 2022 AGM minutes	Done
Committee	Implement an exploration fund system as appropriate Confirm at 2024 AGM if members are happy to continue	Done / On agenda
Gary D	Work with TC to incorporate the dye tracing database into the CNCC's web hosting	
Ian P	Re-draft proposal regarding retrospectively adding anchors to the CNCC list of approved anchors	Done
Adele W	Offer a Memorandum of Understanding to restore access to Stump Cross area caves	Done
Gary D / Jill B	Update Section 4d of the constitution	Done
Committee	Constitutional changes to remove requirement for IC representative to be BCA member	On agenda

6.0 OFFICER REPORTS

(Available one week prior to meeting)

- 6.1 Chair Andrew Hinde
- 6.2 Secretary Jill Bolton
- 6.3 Treasurer Pete Bann
- 6.4 Conservation Officer Kay Easton
- 6.5 Access Officer Adele Ward
- 6.6 Training Officer Ian Patrick
- 6.7 Other reports *(optional)*
inc Web Admin / PR / T&E Rep / Y&D Rep / Inclusivity Co-ordinator
Anchor Co-ordinator / Access Co-ordinators

7.0 ELECTION OF CNCC COMMITTEE for the year 2024-2025 (Appendix E)

The CNCC requires between 10-14 clubs to comprise the Committee.

By the deadline (20 January), 13 full member clubs had indicated their intention to stand for election, plus one prospective member.

Clubs must attract a minimum of **3 VOTES** at the AGM, in order to be elected.

A list of the 14 clubs, along with their supporting statements, is shown in Appendix E.

By the deadline (20 January), no formal application had been received for the Individual Caver (IC) Representative. However, if the constitutional amendment in Agenda item 4.1 is passed, applications for the vacant post may be taken from the floor.

8.0 ELECTION OF CNCC OFFICERS for the year 2024-2025 (Appendix F)

By the deadline (20 January), five of the current elected officers had indicated their intention to stand for re-election. That leaves a vacancy for the Access Officer position.

According to the CNCC Constitution, applications for the vacant post may be taken from the floor.

The list of candidates, and their supporting statements, is shown in Appendix F.

9.0 **CO-OPTED OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES** (Appendix G)

A list of co-opted positions and current holders is shown in Appendix G
This is for information only, and will be presented to the June meeting
for confirmation.

10.0 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

10.1 **EXPLORATION FUND** (Appendix H)

The new Exploration Fund is described in Appendix H
The AGM is asked to confirm its continuing support of the scheme.

10.2 **STUMP CROSS PROJECT** (*For information*)

A report from Tom Thompson ("Angels of the North") will be available
on the CNCC website. A grant of £400 was approved at the January
committee meeting.

11.0 **FUTURE MEETINGS** (*For discussion*)

Dates for 2024-25 Meetings (provisional)

22 June	9:30	Committee meeting
26 October	9:30	Committee meeting
18 January	9:30	Committee meeting
22 March	10:00	Annual General Meeting

APPENDIX A CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: Birmingham Student Caving Club
Official: Kai Trusson (President)
Website: <https://birminghamstudentc.wixsite/birmingham-students>

CLUB DETAILS

Founded: 2023
Number of members: 8
BCA member: Yes
Constitution: Available on request

About the club:

We travel up and down the country introducing students to caving. We aim to develop their caving skills: this ranges from SRT to surveying skills. Some of the club members grew up caving in Yorkshire and have a great passion for northern caving. As the club grows we hope to be able to help with all aspects of caving including conservation.

Why we are applying:

Birmingham is in the middle therefore we don't fall into a north or south category. We also believe it will be beneficial for a new club to be as involved with caving. This is to help grow the club and to retain members once they leave university.

Proposer: ULSA

Seconder: YCC

APPENDIX B CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: Ulster Speleological Society and Caving Club
Official: Raymond Bell (Director)
Website: www.usscc.org

CLUB DETAILS

Founded: 2019
Number of members: 40
BCA member: Yes
Constitution: www.usscc.org/con

About the club:

To the CNCC Committee and Member Clubs, I would like to share some information about the Ulster Speleological Society and Caving Club (USSCC) and explain why we are eager to join the CNCC.

About USSCC: Established in 2019, we have been a BCA Club since our inception. Experiencing rapid growth, we now boast almost 40 paid-up members and are looking to increase our numbers this year - impressive figures for this caving area!

Our club organizes trips every other weekend, alternating between horizontal and SRT trips to cater to all abilities. Additionally, we arrange activities such as cave clean-ups, midweek or mid-month trips, family caving excursions, and free trips for youth to foster future interest in caving in the area.

As a highly active club, we focus on expanding our membership and acquiring a new caving hut for the Fermanagh region in the coming years. Our membership includes individuals from all over Northern Ireland (UK) and Ireland, welcoming participants from all parts of the UK and beyond.

In addition to our regular trips, we conduct several training days and evenings for our members to practice BCA best practices for SRT and group leading, ensuring the safety of all participants while caving. We welcome members from all walks of life to enjoy the best of caving, learn new skills, and enhance existing ones.

The club has quickly established itself in the caving community and is very conscious of our environmental and conservation impact, with members undertaking significant cave clean-ups and projects, doing our utmost to contribute where we can.

Why we are applying:

Why USSCC wants to join the CNCC: USSCC anticipates that CNCC membership will help us stay informed about events and the best training opportunities within the Northern caving region.

Joining CNCC will allow us to align with best practices by participating in the excellent training events organized by CNCC. We believe our members may be interested in contributing to CNCC projects in the future. Membership in CNCC would benefit our club in many ways, and it would be a delight for us to be a member club of the Northern Region of the UK.

As a club in Northern Ireland and a member of the BCA, we believe being part of the CNCC Northern Region UK Caving community is the best way forward for our club. One of our members has visited the Yorkshire area multiple times in the past year and has become a member of a club there and others. This member has also introduced another USSCC member to the Yorkshire caving area.

Now, our club has planned a trip with several members heading to Yorkshire after the new year, and we intend to visit Yorkshire and surrounding areas more frequently in the future to explore this wonderful caving area just a short distance away from Northern Ireland (UK). Regards and Happy Caving to all CNCC and Clubs.

Proposer: ULSA

Secunder: YCC

APPENDIX C INDIVIDUAL CAVER REPRESENTATIVE

ELIGIBILITY OF CANDIDATES

The committee position of Individual Caver Representative was introduced in 2016, to better represent non-club cavers. However, this post has never been filled, possibly due to the requirement to be a BCA member.

The CNCC committee meeting in June 2023 discussed deleting this BCA membership requirement, and agreed unanimously to suggest amending Clause 5c of the constitution at the next AGM:

From:

*The Committee may, only if there is an eligible applicant at the election, also include one additional member whose role it is to represent individual cavers undertaking trips outside of a club structure (known herein as the Individual Caver (IC) representative). The IC representative must be **an individual member of the BCA**, and has one vote on the Committee.*

To:

*The Committee may, only if there is an eligible applicant at the election, also include one additional member whose role it is to represent individual cavers undertaking trips outside of a club structure (known herein as the Individual Caver (IC) representative). The IC representative must be **one individual**, and has one vote on the Committee.*

This was further considered at the January 2024 CNCC meeting, where the committee agreed to propose amending the constitution at the AGM, as follows:

PROPOSAL 1

To amend point 5c of the constitution in accordance with the above wording.

Proposed ?

Seconded Earby PC

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

If no candidate comes forward in advance, the Constitution is silent on whether applications may be taken at the AGM.

To avoid any ambiguity, or misinterpretation of other sections, the AGM may wish to clarify the Constitution as follows:

Only if there are no applications received conforming to the above criteria, or if none of the applicants prove to be eligible upon voting, may applications for the vacant post of Individual Caver Representative be accepted which are made on the day from those present and eligible at the meeting.

PROPOSAL 2

To insert Clause 7b (vii) of the constitution in accordance with the above wording.

Proposed ?

Seconded Earby PC

ELECTION PROCEDURE

The current Constitution states:

Clause 7c (iii) Only Direct Individual Members of the British Caving Association who are present at the meeting may vote for the IC representative, and should do so by each selecting one applicant.

At the January 2024 CNCC meeting, the committee agreed to propose removing the requirement for voters to be DIMs, and to allow everyone attending the AGM to have a personal vote.

The AGM may therefore wish to clarify the Constitution as follows:

All persons who are present at the meeting may vote for the IC representative, and should do so by each selecting one applicant.

PROPOSAL 3

To amend Clause 7c (iii) of the constitution in accordance with the above wording.

Proposed ?

Seconded Earby PC

If this proposal is carried then the following “housekeeping” is required:

Clause 9i - to be amended

From: *Outcomes will be decided by majority vote of all voting representatives present.*

To: *Outcomes will be decided by majority vote of all voting club representatives present, or, in the case of the IC representative election, of all individuals present.*

Clause 9j - to be deleted

The only exception is voting for the election of the IC representative, for which only attending Direct Individual Members of the British Caving Association may vote. BCA membership card to prove DIM status must be brought to the meeting to enable a vote.

PROPOSAL 4

To amend Clause 9i and delete Clause 9j of the constitution in accordance with the above wording.

Proposed ?

Seconded Earby PC

APPENDIX D CNCC NAME CHANGE

There has been much discussion over several years (including every meeting since the last AGM) that "Council of Northern Caving Clubs" no longer reflects the work of the CNCC. We work for the benefit of all those caving in the north of Britain, not just club members - and not just BCA members.

The January committee meeting heard that branding really matters, and changing the name changes the underlying message, to make it clear we are working for all cavers. This matters especially for young people, and for anyone who may feel excluded.

The committee therefore recommends that the AGM considers firstly, approving a motion to change the name, and secondly, votes for a new name.

If these changes are passed, it will be necessary to update the constitution with the new name.

<p>PROPOSAL 1 To change the name of the "Council of Northern Caving Clubs", whilst maintaining the abbreviation CNCC.</p> <p>Proposed York CC Seconded YUCPC</p>
<p>PROPOSAL 2 To hold an election during the 2024 AGM to select one of the following names as a replacement for "Council of Northern Caving Clubs":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Council for the Northern Caving Community</i>• <i>Council of Northern Cavers and Clubs</i> <p>Proposed York CC Seconded YUCPC</p>
<p>PROPOSAL 3 To amend the title and Clause (1) Definition 1a of the constitution with the new name.</p> <p>Proposed York CC Seconded YUCPC</p>
<p>PROPOSAL 4 To amend Clause (1) Definition 1b from: <i>The council is a voluntary association of recognised caving clubs.</i> to: <i>The council is a voluntary association of cavers and recognised caving clubs.</i></p> <p>Proposed York CC Seconded YUCPC</p>

APPENDIX E CLUB APPLICATIONS

The following 14 clubs have applied to become members for 2024-25:

	ATTENDANCE 2023-24 (max 3)
Bradford Pothole Club Ltd	3
Craven Pothole Club	3
Earby Pothole Club	2
Grampian Speleological Group	3
Kendal Caving Club	3
Northern Boggarts	3
Northern Pennine Club	3
Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club	3
Uni of Leeds Speleological Association	2
White Rose Pothole Club	1
York Caving Club	3
York Uni Cave and Pothole Club	3
Yorkshire Subterranean Society	3
Ulster Speleological Society & Caving Club *	N/A

CLUB STATEMENTS

BRADFORD POTHOLE CLUB

(Secretary - Will Foxall)

The BPC is a long established club, having a presence in the caving community for 91 years and with a membership of over 300 members. We are not only one of the largest clubs in the country but also have an active caving membership (above and below water) not only in the Dales, but also have members involved in exploration in various parts of the UK.

As a club we have been involved with the CNCC from the outset and have a number of members involved in cave conservation projects as well as with Natural England. The club offers club meets every other weekend open to both members and guests and provide visiting cavers whether from university clubs or other established clubs accommodation and local knowledge as well as a warm welcome.

We provide an interface between cavers and the general public through our activities at our annual Gaping Gill meet by providing access to the system, either via a winch directly into the main chamber or by rigging the major routes in to the system for visiting cavers to use.

We support a number of local charities and have a number of members who are active in the local cave and fell rescue teams.

CRAVEN POTHOLE CLUB

(Secretary - Mike Tighgeal)

The Craven Pothole Club as a founding member is keen to continue its long-standing contribution to CNCC by again standing for election to the CNCC Committee at the forthcoming AGM.

The CPC are a long-established caving club within Dales (1929). We have a large active caving membership of 272 members from all over UK and around the world.

We are an active club with over 40 well-attended club trips organised throughout the year, all over the UK (Dales, Peak's, Mendip, Wales, Scotland) and trips abroad.

Our annual Gaping Gill winch took place last year and was very successful. This winch meet provides a great facility to the caving community with several entrances to the GG system rigged for 10 days with an open invitation to the caving community to visit.

We also provide a great interface for the public to see and visit Gaping Gill, which enables us to promote the sport to a wider audience.

EARBY POTHOLE CLUB

(Secretary - Stuart Whitmey)

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.

GRAMPIAN SPELEOLOGICAL GROUP

(Founder & Hon. Recorder - Alan Jeffreys)

This is a formal application from the committee of the Grampian Speleological Group to continue their representation on the CNCC Committee for the year 2024.

Since the inclusion of Scotland within the area overseen by CNCC, there has been a need for representation from the region. The Grampian Speleological group is now, *de facto*, a nationally recognised caving club with members and projects all over Scotland.

Although access and conservation problems are currently low-key, there is a desire for careful management and conservation of caves and karst scenery in Scotland, for which the GSG, in concert with CNCC, are committed to upholding, whilst also supporting similar efforts made in Northern England.

KENDAL CAVING CLUB

(Vice President - Andy Gordon)

The KCC would again like to stand for renewed membership of the Committee of the CNCC. Whilst still a relatively small club, the KCC has moved into a phase of increased energy and activity.

There has been a steady trickle of new members, of varying levels of ability. These have made some demands for in-club training, which we feel we are fulfilling.

In addition to regular local trips we have also seen visits to Derbyshire, South Wales, Ireland and Matienzo.

The club also has members involved in several digging projects.

NORTHERN BOGGARTS

(Secretary - Pete Monk)

The Northern Boggarts, a local northern caving club based in Clitheroe, is happy to stand again for the committee for the CNCC in 2024. 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 of Shuttleworth Pot and Witches 2.

Several of our members continue to play an active part in conservation projects including, recently, the removal of a dead sheep from Bull Pot, Kingsdale in October 2023. Another of our club members has had two articles published in caving journals over the last twelve months.

Our club continues to play a lively part in the running of CNCC. One of our club members is the Conservation Officer for the CNCC, one is the Treasurer, and another club member is Access Officer for the Bowland Area. We are happy to play an active role in the CNCC and look forwards to your continuing support.

NORTHERN PENNINE CLUB

(Secretary - Peter Hambly)

The NPC is one of the oldest and largest caving clubs in the UK, with 188 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 runs 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.

RED ROSE CAVE AND POTHOLE CLUB

(President - Sam Lieberman)

The Red Rose remains committed to facilitating its members, visitors and guests in pursuit of caving and related activities and to maintaining Bullpot Farm as the gateway to the caves of Casterton Fell.

We're pleased, with the support of CNCC, to have completed major works to re-open the popular Wretched Rabbit entrance to the Easegill system and our members are active in many other exploration, conservation and access activities.

UNI OF LEEDS SPELEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

(Secretary - John Holloway)

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 several years, supporting improved access to caves for all cavers, and improving representation for DIMs. We will continue to ensure that the views and interests of student cavers are represented.

In the Dales, our members are active in sports trips, digging, diving, surveying, conservation and bolting. Many are also members of other caving clubs around the country. As a university club, we introduce many new, mainly young, people to caving. New cavers are the future of caving and we would like to continue helping the CNCC with the good work they do.

WHITE ROSE POTHOLE CLUB

(Secretary - Lynnette Cadamarteri)

The WRPC wish to remain on the committee for 2024, given the positive contribution the CNCC make towards supporting the interests of caving and cavers.

The White Rose Pothole Club has long history of cave exploration in the Yorkshire Dales. Although we are a small close-knit club, our extensive expertise ranges in areas of geology, hydrology, mining, cave diving, cave exploration and surveying.

YORK CAVING CLUB

(Chair - Matt Ewles)

York CC would like to stand again for a position on CNCC Committee (but would happily step back should an influx of new Committee applicants appear). We are a small but busy club based in York, founded in 2009, caving primarily in northern England.

We have members involved in numerous aspects of northern caving, including cave rescue, photography, conservation and anchor installation.

We are active in digging in the Northern Dales and North York Moors and we have regular sporting trips around the Three Peaks/Three Counties area. Three of our members have been involved with CNCC for many years. We would be delighted to continue to contribute our voice to the ongoing work of CNCC for 2024-2025.

YORK UNI CAVE AND POTHOLE CLUB

(President - Rebecca Hay)

YUCPC continues to be an extremely active student caving club, which despite recent difficulties, continues to introduce young people to the caving world, as well as develop existing members' skills to allow them to become proficient members of adult clubs.

We believe it is important to continue to keep students involved in CNCC discussions and provide a student perspective and participation to the greater caving community.

We are keen to assist the CNCC in the work they continue to do.

YORKSHIRE SUBTERRANEAN SOCIETY

(Secretary - Fiona Durham)

The YSS welcome the opportunity to stand again for the committee of the CNCC.. We have been members for many years and attend most meetings.

We have a large and increasing membership. As one of the most active caving clubs in the area , we feel it is important to have input and influence into caving matters in the North.

We run fortnightly meets and have twice yearly events for new cavers.

We can be relied on to have an opinion on caving matters and CNCC matters are on the agenda for all YSS committee meetings. We are happy to help on all things caving.

ULSTER SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY & CAVING CLUB

(Director - Raymond Bell)

(if membership application is accepted)

USSCC is a caving club based in the Northern Ireland Region of the United Kingdom, and is an affiliated club of the BCA. Founded in 2019, our membership has steadily grown strong, with many active and experienced cavers among us.

In addition to our monthly club caving trips, we frequently engage in the exploration of new passages/caves, participate in digging projects, and continue our cleanup and conservation operations within inland and coastal caves, removing tons of waste and plastic.

We actively support and encourage youth and young people in caving by providing assistance at no cost, leading, helping, and guiding local community groups on caving trips. Recently, we have expanded our caving trips, venturing over to the mainland UK and further afield.

Our club adheres to BCA standards as much as possible and admires the high standards within CNCC as a whole. We acknowledge that we have much to learn and gain, and we hope to bring a positive, helpful voice to the table for Northern Ireland, offering support as needed. We would be honoured to be part of the CNCC Committee if accepted.

APPENDIX F OFFICER STATEMENTS

The following have notified the Secretary of their intention to stand for election:

Chair	Andrew Hinde
Secretary	Jill Bolton
Treasurer	Pete Bann
Conservation Officer	Kay Easton
Access Officer	(No application)
Training Officer	Ian Patrick

Andrew Hinde (Chair)

I am happy to do another year as Chair, if elected by the committee. In the meantime, CNCC member clubs should be thinking about who they would like to chair in the future and approach them early.

Jill Bolton (Secretary)

Whilst I would never have volunteered to be CNCC Secretary, had I understood half the work involved, I must admit that it's very interesting. I am therefore happy to stand for re-election in 2024. It's a privilege to be able to help cavers, and the CNCC is definitely worth supporting!

Pete Bann (Treasurer)

No statement provided

Kay Easton (Conservation Officer)

I would like to stand again for Conservation Officer, a post I have held for the last nine years. I am a member of the Bradford PC and Northern Boggarts.

As Conservation Officer, I will perform a facilitative role, helping people access the support and information they need to carry out the conservation projects that they are interested in.

Access Officer - No candidate

Ian Patrick (Training Officer)

Hi all Northern Cavers and Caving Clubs. I would be very grateful if you would consider re-electing me as the CNCC Training Officer.

The training workshops are going well and we are continuing to add new ones to programme. The training is now supported by numerous trainers, delivering quality training, my role is now becoming more of an "administrator".

If anyone has an interest in getting involved with the training, please do shout up.

APPENDIX G CO-OPTED OFFICERS

For information only

To be confirmed at the next committee meeting in June.

CO-OPTED OFFICERS

Web Administrator	Gary Douthwaite
PR & Communications Officer	Matt Ewles
Assistant Training Officer	Mark Richards
Minute Secretary	Josh Young
Inclusivity Co-ordinator	Josh White
Anchor Co-ordinator	Alan Speight
Access Co-ordinators	
Bowland	Anthony Brown
Excalibur	Matt Ewles
Robinsons & Fairy Holes	Dinny Davies

BCA WORKING GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

Training & Equipment Rep	Mark Richards
Youth & Development Rep	Aila Taylor
BCA Council Rep	Andrew Hinde

APPENDIX H EXPLORATION FUND

At the 2023 AGM, the committee was tasked with setting up a scheme for grants to support northern exploration. The scheme was duly set up at the October committee meeting, and publicised in the November edition of the CNCC Newsletter, and on the CNCC website:

<https://cncc.org.uk/resources/exploration-grants/>

The CNCC welcomes applications for exploration grants across the areas we represent (northern England and Scotland), as part of an initiative to support those who seek to further our knowledge of northern caves and discover new places that others might enjoy.

Funding is primarily intended to help cover costs associated to procurement of materials and consumable items or equipment hire, but other costs will be considered.

To make an application, we will require a summary of your project including the nature of the work you are seeking funding for (eg shaft sinking, stabilisation, underground digging, diving, pitch scaling, conservation, surveying), project timeframes, the amount you need and, as accurately as possible, a costs breakdown of how this is going to be spent. All applications will be decided by CNCC Committee.

Any project receiving CNCC funding must show that all necessary permissions are in place, including landowner and/or Natural England consent where appropriate. Applications must include a conservation plan to show that all relevant aspects of conservation have been considered. This includes spoil management, precautions to minimise the impact of your work, preservation of new discoveries, restoration and cleanup of the site once work is completed, and making surface entrances safe for people and livestock.

It is important for CNCC to be transparent and publish details of projects receiving funding. Grant recipients are expected to provide follow-up on how the project has gone (or is going) once some reasonable progress has been made. The exact expectations associated to each grant may vary on a project-by-project basis.

Since the Exploration Fund is very new, no applications have been received so far. Nevertheless, the 2023 AGM requested that the 2024 AGM confirm their continued support for the scheme.

PROPOSAL

This AGM confirms their support for the continuation of the Exploration Fund, as described on the CNCC website.

Proposer Bradford PC

Seconder Northern Boggarts