

**CNCC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**March 2025**  
**OFFICER REPORTS**

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	Kai Trusson
6.6	Training Officer	Ian Patrick
6.7.1	Training & Equipment rep	Mark Richards
6.7.2	Anchor Co-ordinator	Alan Speight
6.7.3	Inclusivity Co-ordinator	Josh White
6.7.4	Youth & Development rep	Aila Taylor
6.7.5	Individual Caver Rep	Tim Allen
6.7.6	BCA Council rep	Andrew Hinde
6.7.7	PR & Communications	Matt Ewles
6.7.8	Access Co-ordinators	
	Bowland	Tony Brown
	Excalibur	Matt Ewles
	Robinsons' Pot / Fairy Holes	Dinny Davies
6.7.9	Web Administrator	Gary Douthwaite

**JUNE 2024****Dales Countryside Museum**

The museum in Hawes has an exhibition on the heritage of commons in the Dales which runs until September. This features a sample of cave archaeology from some of the Dales caves which have been collected and curated by Northern Cavers. I did the best I could to display the large mammal bones with the cabinets provided. This was followed up with a seminar on Cave Archaeology which was attended by some of the original cave explorers along with academics from UCLAN.

**CNCC Photo Exhibition**

The stunning collection of photos by Northern Cavers is returning to the Folly in Settle this summer. The collection aroused much interest from the public last year. The exhibition was due to go to the Saw Mill at Clapham in Spring but this fell through due to security problems that we could not overcome in a commercial premises.

**YDNP Management Plan Forum**

I attended this forum to represent CNCC and caving interests. Caving is still a central theme of recreation with the National Park. Caving was cited as an important feature by a significant number of respondents to the Management Plan consultation. Cave access is also cited in the draft of the Management Plan. Caving is well respected by the Park Authority and Officers.

**OCTOBER 2024****Stump Cross Show Cave**

As a matter of transparency, I confirm that I have attended a site visit to the proposed new extension to Stump Cross show cave. This was related to my employment with Natural England. I attended with the SSSI site officer. We had a thorough examination of the proposed new route in the company of Tom Thompson CPC. We agreed a work methodology that would protect the scientific features of interest within the cave during the construction phase.

**Foxholes**

I had a site visit with John Cordingley to Foxholes in Clapdale. A run-in of surface scree has blocked the access to the metal entrance gate. This cave has a significant archaeological interest. This is a project that can be picked up by the CNCC Conservation volunteers.

**CNCC Photo exhibition**

After a successful summer season at the Folly in Settle, the mounted photos are back in storage at my house. If you know of any public building in the Dales Area that would like to host this exhibition, please let me know.

### **Hidden Earth - Llangollen**

I enjoyed a weekend at the National Caving Conference last month. I spent a lot of time manning the CNCC stall in the exhibition hall where I met loads of old friends and chatted with passing delegates. Most people are interested in the bound copies of the cave topos and route descriptions. The display of resin bonded anchors are also a popular discussion point. It would be good to make more if this area of our work at the next Hidden Earth. This will hopefully be nearer the Dales. Thanks to Frank Pearson for delivering a great regional roundup of caving activity in the Dales. Finally, thanks to all who showed such concern when I had a "funny turn" after I was charged £6 for a pint in the Bridge Hotel!

### **JANUARY 2025**

#### **YDNP Active Travel Plan**

On 5 December I attended a consultation on the YDNP "Active Travel Plan". This is a plan for improving access and upgrading facilities for ramblers, runners, cyclists and wheelchair users on public rights of way in and to the Dales. This was a good opportunity to meet some of the new YDNP staff and to catch up with some of the access team that run the Cave & Crag Advisory Group. The new government are consulting on improved access in protected landscapes and I was able to hear some thoughts from the YDNP on how access to caves will be a major theme in their consultation paper. There is a long way to go yet, but I want to thank Tim Allen for all the hard work he did to a few years ago to prepare the ground for CNCC to take advantage of opportunities like this. I will update you all, and in particular the Access Officer, when I have a clearer sight of the consultation.

Another busy year! Alongside all the regular day-to-day tasks, updating the constitution was a very time-consuming process, although that was partly because of the volume of comments from the enthusiastic working group. It still requires further amendment, particularly if there are changes to CNCC membership criteria to reflect our emphasis on the caving community, rather than just clubs.

There are no new applications to join the CNCC this year, although several clubs have indicated to the BCA that they "identify" with our region. I shall invite them to attend meetings, with a view to joining next year (when the process is simplified).

The Craven PC Librarian has suggested that we might improve the documentation for meetings, so I shall follow this up directly with Pat:

*Maybe in future we should list the papers which should be filed with each set of minutes - in 20 years time, no one will know what documents they are looking for to see the reports etc. It all depends on who does the archiving of minutes and what they add to them as "Appendices".*

This year, I have assisted the current Access Officer, mainly with advice, and also with standing in for a couple of meetings. I have filed all the emails relating to various caves, in order to provide background to the new Access Officer, as issues arise.

As detailed in the Training Officer's report, the superb programme of workshops continues. One of our larger clubs has recently decided to fund Under-25s attending these courses, a clear demonstration of their value to the caving community.

Archaeology is an area where the CNCC might choose to raise awareness. I'm pleased to report that we have a volunteer prepared to be co-opted as "Archaeology Co-ordinator", and also an academic archaeologist interested in running a workshop.

The usual dates for this year's meetings have been booked on the Craven Village Hall website, although it would be helpful if we could have a bigger gap between the last committee meeting and the AGM. In June, we might discuss holding meetings quarterly, in March, June, September and December.

I should really appreciate a volunteer to take minutes in committee meetings, and this could be a good apprenticeship for anyone interested in taking on the role of Secretary when I step down in a year or two.

Finally, thank you to Matt Ewles (a former CNCC and BCA secretary) for his advice and support throughout the year. I'd also like to add my thanks to the retiring officers: Andrew, Pete and Kai (not forgetting Josh Young, the Minute Secretary).

It's really encouraging that we have willing volunteers for the three vacant officer posts, which must, in part, be due to the excellent reputation of the CNCC, both locally and nationally.

**TREASURER****Pete Bann**

Purchases of SRT Kit have been made from Inglesport and Starless River.  
 These items were added to the CNCC Kit Inventory.  
 The BCA claim for 2024 will be £6889.86

**BANK BALANCES**

	As at 10 March 2025	As at 31 December 2024	As at 1 January 2024
	£	£	£
Premium Account	9 959.81	12 159.81	8 686.48
Community Account	36.75	358.74	381.37
<b>TOTAL</b>	9 996.56	12 518.55	£ 9 067.85
 <b>INCREASE / (DECREASE)</b>		 £(2 521.99)	 £ 3 450.70

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

	Period ending 10 March 2025		Year ending 31 December 2024	
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
Training Course Fees (paid 2025 via Paypal)	551.54		7 453.46	
Training Course Fees (2025 paid 2024)	2 973.66		2 973.66	
			439.57	
Training Course Fees paid direct	-		30.00	
Interest	-		173.33	
BCA Grant for 2025	-		8 691.09	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		3 525.20	19 821.11	
 <b>Less: EXPENDITURE</b>				
Course Payments/Refund direct			60.00	
Training Course Tuition 2025 to date	2 250.00		8 250.00	
Training Course Venue Hire 2024	-		1 070.00	
Training Course Venue Hire 2025	990.00		990.00	
Meeting Mileage	200.90		543.60	
C&A Mileage	-		807.90	
C&A Materials	-		2 798.33	
“Try Caving” Support	-		130.00	
Training Kit - hire	-		168.00	
Training Kit - purchase	322.20		-	
IT & Admin	300.73		1 045.06	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		4 063.83	15 862.89	
 <b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>		 £ (538.63)	 £ 3 958.22	

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE 1 TRAINING COURSES

	Year ending 31 December 2024		Year ending 31 December 2023	
	£	£	£	£
Course fees via Paypal 2023	439.57		923.00	
Course fees via Paypal 2024	7 513.46		5 858.21	
Direct Credit Course fees	30.00		135.00	
		7 983.03		6 916.21
Refund	60.00			
Course Tuition 2024	8 250.00		8 255.00	
Venue Hire Fees 2024	1 070.00		2 335.00	
Training Kit - hire	168.00		278.35	
“Try Caving” Support	130.00		438.58	
		9 678.00		11 306.93
<b>TRAINING SUPPORT CLAIM</b>		£1 694.97		£ 4 390.72

### NOTE 2 BCA GRANT CLAIM

	2024	2023
	£	£
IT & Admin	1 045.06	1 306.94
Meeting Mileage	543.60	175.05
C&A Mileage	807.90	569.09
C&A Materials	2 798.33	1 499.29
Training Course Support	1 694.97	5 140.72
<b>TOTAL CLAIM</b>	£ 6 889.86	£ 8 691.09

# Council for the Northern Caving Commu

Funding was provided for a replacement gate at Bull Pot Farm.

An 'exploration grant' payment for drill batteries was made to Ray Duffy

Materials were purchased for work on a replacement entrance for Stream Passage Pot. The work was comple

The support from CNCC to York University Caving Club was repayed in full from BCA

The number of training courses run increased from 48 in 2024 against 43 in 2023.

Paying by PayPal continues to be trouble free.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ending 31st December 2024

### INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Year ending 31st December 2024			Year en Income
	Income	Expenses	Net total	
	£	£	£	
Training Course Fees paid 2024 via PayPal	£7,513.46		£7,513.46	£5,858.2
Training Course Fees 2025 paid 2024	£2,973.66		£2,973.66	
Training Course Fees 2024 paid 2023	£439.57		£439.57	£439.5
Interest	£173.33		£173.33	£108.3
Training Course Fees paid direct	£30.00		£30.00	£135.0
BCA Grant for 2023	£8,691.09		£8,691.09	£4,230.3
Course Payments/Refund Direct		-£60.00	-£60.00	-
Training Course Tuition 2024		-£8,250.00	-£8,250.00	
Training Course Venue Hire 2024		-£1,070.00	-£1,070.00	
Training Course Venue Hire 2025		-£990.00	-£990.00	
Anchor Installation Course Venue Hire			£0.00	
C&A Mileage		-£807.90	-£807.90	
Meeting Mileage		-£543.60	-£543.60	
C&A Materials		-£2,798.33	-£2,798.33	
Try Caving Support		-£130.00	-£130.00	
Training Kit Hire		-£168.00	-£168.00	
IT/Admin		-£1,045.06	-£1,045.06	
Overall Total	£19,821.11	-£15,862.89	£3,958.22	£10,771.41

## **CONSERVATION OFFICER**

**Kay Easton**

This year has seen a continuation of the trend away from people reporting problems and asking for a team of CNCC volunteers to come and sort it, to people reporting problems and saying “I can get a group together to sort it, and can you support us?” So, like last year it’s been a quiet year for the CNCC volunteers but a busy year for conservation.

The main activity this year has been the complete removal of the old entrance shaft tube at Stream Passage Pot and its replacement by new plastic piping which has been reported fully on [ukcaving.com](http://ukcaving.com) and on the CNCC website.

Stiles at Low Birkwith/Calf Holes have been inspected and repaired as necessary. The rubbish from Notts Pot has at last been removed.

Work is planned at Foxholes and work on the shaft top at Aquamole. Stock proofing and attention to scaffolding at Swan Dike Pot if a willing person can be found to scope this work and lead a working party on the day.

A list of equipment available for CNCC members to borrow for conservation projects is on the CNCC website

<https://cncc.org.uk/resources/assets/>

(It’s under the “resources” heading rather than “conservation” because the list also includes publicity and anchor placement items.)

Those who are planning conservation works are reminded that Sam Allshorn has money donated by Mike Cooper from sales of “Not for the Faint Hearted” which is available for conservation work on caves featured in the book.

## **ACCESS OFFICER**

**Kai Trusson**

I’m unable to attend the CNCC AGM as it clashes with the Northern CHECC weekend at Bull Pot Farm, so I’ll be busy in my new role as CHECC Training Officer.

Over the past twelve months, there have been no major changes in access, but there are definitely projects for the new Access Officer to take forward.

I have really enjoyed my time on the CNCC committee and thank everyone who has supported me. In turn, I shall be happy to assist my successor in any way I can.

The CNCC training workshops have had another very successful year. A wide range of topics and skill levels have been covered with lots of good feedback received.

We ran a number of very popular “New to caving” events. These were facilitated by CNCC trainers. The Red Rose have kindly put on an event in April 2025, this has proved very popular and uptake has been excellent. These events are far better run by Northern caving clubs rather than by CNCC trainers, please consider if your club could host one of these events.

**Trainers “Moderation” and Kit Purchases**

All 5 SRT trainers came together for a day, we looked at all aspects of training. This helps ensure we are delivering consistent content on the workshops. We had a really detailed chat about cowstails carabiners, this resulted in us purchasing 8 new carabiners to add to our existing kit, along with some other items to ensure we can show participants various options. All CNCC training equipment is available to view on the CNCC asset list.

**Acknowledgments**

The success of the workshops is genuinely down to a great team effort. My sincere thanks to all who have made them a success.

- The CNCC committee, for overall support
- Gary Douthwaite, for outstanding IT Support
- Matt Ewles, for general support and effective PR
- Pete Bann, for dealing with a lot of payments!
- SRT trainers:
  - Mark Richards (MR) (Assistant Training Officer)
  - Sam Litten (SL)
  - Helen Hooper (HH)
  - Jo White (JW)
- The YSS, CPC and Yorkshire Dales Guides for use of their premises
- Tom Thompson (TT) and others - “Digital Surveying for Dummies”

The 48 workshops are detailed on the next page, providing training for 243 participants in total.

Course	Date	Workshop	Venue	Trainer	Bookings
134	Jan 6	SRT Rescue (Foundation)	Barn	HH	6
141	Jan 13/14	New to SRT	Barn/Cave	SL	4
137	Jan 13	SRT Refresher	Cave	IP	4
113	Jan 21	Skills for SRT Leaders	YSS	HH	4
144	Jan 27	New to SRT Rigging	Barn	MR	6
145	Jan 28	New to SRT / Refresher	Barn	MR	5
138	Feb 10	SRT Intermediate	Barn	SL	6
139	Feb 11	Skills for SRT Leaders	Cave	SL	4
147	Feb 24	Digital Surveying	YSS	TT	8
146	Mar 2	"Try Caving" hosted by CPC	CPC/Cave	CPC	9
148	Mar 16	New to SRT Rigging	Barn	SL	6
149	Mar 17	SRT Rescue (Foundation)	Barn	SL	6
150	Apr 13	SRT Refresher	Cave	IP	4
151	Apr 20/21	New to SRT	YSS/Cave	JW	4
167	Apr 27	SRT Rigging (2:1)	Cave	HH	2
153	Apr 28	SRT Rescue (2:1)	Cave	IP	2
154	May 4/5	SRT Intermediate	YSS/Cave	HH	4
155	May 11	SRT Refresher	Cave	SL	4
156	May 12	"Pull through" workshop	Cave	SL	4
157	Jun 1/2	New to SRT	YSS/Cave	IP	4
166	Jun 8	"New to Caving" hosted by CNCC	Cave	IP	5
158	Jun 8	SRT Rigging (2:1)	Cave	SL	2
165	Jun 9	SRT Rescue (2:1)	Cave	SL	2
160	Jun 22	SRT Refresher	Cave	HH	4
161	Jun 23	"Pull through" workshop	Cave	HH	4
162	Jul 13/14	SRT Intermediate	Barn/Cave	SL	4
163	Jul 20	SRT Rescue (Foundation)	YSS	JW	4
164	Jul 21	New to SRT Rigging	YSS	JW	4
89	Aug 10	SRT - Gaping Gill	Cave	IP	4
169	Aug 17	SRT Rigging (2:1)	Cave	HH	2
189	Sept 7	"New to Caving" hosted by CNCC	Cave	IP	8
168	Sept 8	"New to Caving" hosted by CNCC	Cave	IP	9
170	Sept 14	SRT Refresher	Cave	HH	4
171	Sept 21/22	New to SRT	YSS/Cave	IP	4
190	Oct 12/13	New to SRT	Barn/Cave	IP	4
173	Oct 13	SRT Refresher	Cave	HH	4
175	Oct 19	New to SRT Rigging	Barn	IP	6
174	Oct 19/20	New to SRT	YSS/Cave	JW	4
176	Oct 20	SRT Refresher	Cave	IP	4
191	Nov 2/3	New to SRT	Barn/Cave	IP	4
178	Nov 10	SRT Rescue (2:1)	Cave	HH	2
177	Nov 10	SRT Rescue (Foundation)	Barn	MR	7
179	Nov 30	SRT Rigging (2:1)	Cave	JW	2
180	Dec 1	SRT Refresher	Cave	JW	4
193	Dec 1	"New to Caving" hosted by CNCC	Cave	IP	8
181	Dec 7	New to SRT Rigging	Barn	MR	6
182	Dec 8	SRT Rescue (Intermediate)	Barn	MR	6
194	Dec 14	SRT Refresher	Barn	IP	6

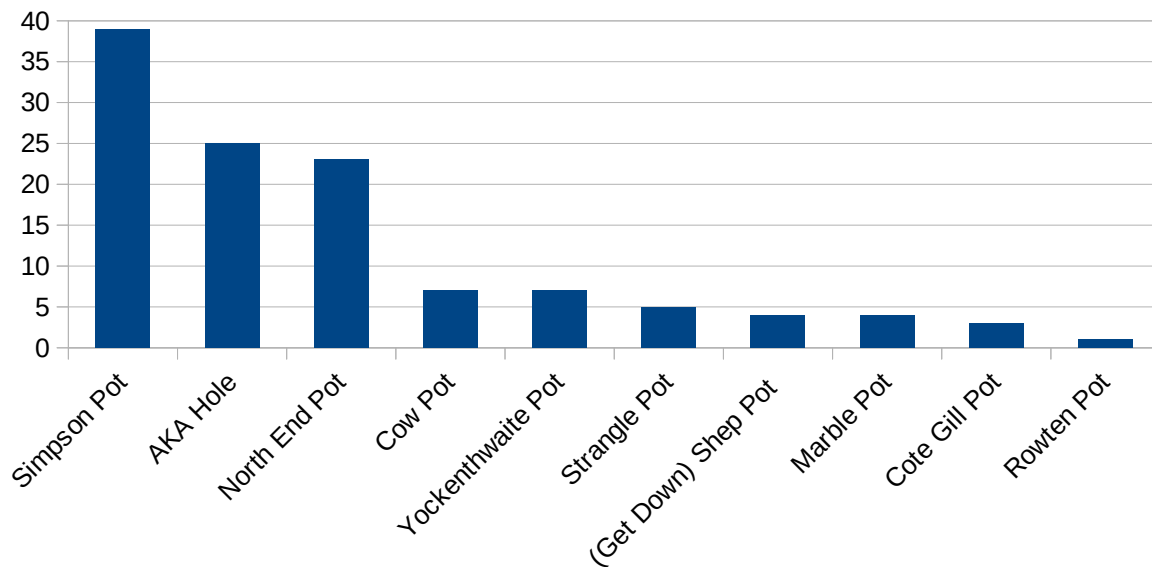
There were two meetings of the Working Group during 2024, in January and December. However, the minutes from the last meeting have not been formalised.

**ANCHOR CO-ORDINATOR**

**Ian Walker (on behalf of Alan Speight)**

**Anchors installed in 2024**

Total: 10 caves, 118 anchors



**Supply of anchors**

There is a sufficient stock of IC anchors, expected to last the next 8 years at current usage levels.

**Anchor wear**

Seven anchors were removed from Simpson Pot due to excessive wear. See technical reports:

<https://cncc.org.uk/equipment/documents/>

**Anchors decommissioned**

An unknown number of other anchors have been removed from service as part of the re-anchoring of Simpson Pot. This was done by cutting off flush with an angle grinder.

**Anchor Scheme update**

The CNCC anchor scheme was most recently updated in 2019 and would benefit from a review.

**Installers**

There are 10 installers in the anchor database, two of whom logged an installation in 2024.

**Defect reports**

Reports in 2024: 14 (a notable increase from 4-6 per year previously submitted)

Outstanding reports: 19 (oldest from 2021)

**Topo updates**

Topos have been checked and updated for numerous caves in the past year.

**Historic Records**

A cache of historic anchor installation data has been made available on the CNCC website. <https://cncc.org.uk/equipment/documents/data-archive/>

**INCLUSIVITY CO-ORDINATOR****Josh White**

As the inaugural holder of this role, a big chunk of the work has been working out the direction this role will go, as well as developing a team of people to support this work. I now feel with my feet under the table that I'm in a position to drive this role forwards for another year.

One of the main pieces of work I've been undertaking is the raising of awareness and the spreading of 'good practice' and up-to-date information through a series of articles in the CNCC newsletter. If re-appointed, I will continue to push this out on a range of topics. I also intend on doing some more practical projects like arranging new to caving style events for minority groups that may have reduced access to our sport. The third thing I intend on focusing on is the ongoing project to review the website content from an accessibility standpoint.

I have tried throughout my time in the role to keep Council updated with the group's work, and commit to continuing this. If council believe that there should be more updates then I will commit to more updates, but this may diminish the value of those reports.

**YOUTH & DEVELOPMENT REP****Aila Taylor**

The BCA Youth & Development Working Group has been fairly inactive this year, although it is hoped that this may change in future following the appointment of a new BCA Y&D officer. Therefore, my role has primarily involved supporting the CHECC committee as they underwent changes, alongside general CNCC support (such as ensuring younger cavers are considered in the decision-making process and assisting with the stall at Hidden Earth).

I have assisted with the CHECC storing of SRT kits in the Dales, which are now housed at the Dump (Bradford Pothole Club) for visiting clubs to borrow. I am currently working to support a struggling student club with logistical and financial difficulties, which is likely to be an ongoing issue (that I shan't discuss publicly unless a need arises). I am also providing training in leadership and navigation for CHECC.

## **INDIVIDUAL CAVER REPRESENTATIVE**

**Tim Allen**

I was honoured to be the first person elected into the role of Individual Caver Representative (ICR) at last year's AGM.

I attended the June and October meetings but was unable to make the meeting in January, although Jon Beavan kindly volunteered to stand in for me. I have endeavoured to contribute to the good work of the CNCC throughout the year. To that end I have advised the Access Officer on a number of issues and helped the secretary and PR when requested.

I reported to the committee in October that I had looked to better define the ICR role. The outcome can hopefully be incorporated into a future version of the Manual of Operations. I also made enquiries of the BCA as to whether they had any direct representation for similar independent cavers. This was to try and establish some synergy between my role and the National Body. Although the BCA secretary was responsive there is no representation outside of the constituent groups or member roles. How wide the BCA representation actually is, appears somewhat opaque in this regard.

Throughout the year I assisted the working group in drafting up the new constitution. It was a thoughtful process which considered multiple draft versions and I fully support the new draft. I only contributed in a small way compared to the lengthy and diligent work of the others, particularly Jill and Matt. I hope all attending the AGM will recognise their efforts.

My involvement with the draft reminded me of deeper legacy issues within the constitution, which will need addressing in the future if we are to fully represent the northern caving community. These centre on wider representation, membership and the democratic process. I have therefore tabled a motion to look at these issues over the coming years. I hope the AGM will be supportive.

## **BCA COUNCIL REP**

**Andrew Hinde**

### **BCA Council Meeting 14 March 2024**

Zac Woodford appointed by BCA Council as P&I Working Group Convener  
Alan Richardson was appointed by BCA Council as FSE Representative  
Simon Mullins was appointed by BCA Council as IT Officer  
Comprehensive report from the newly appointed Treasurer was accepted  
BCA Financial Statements were accepted by Council

### **BCA Annual General Meeting 3 June 2024**

All Officer reports were accepted by the membership.  
Andy Eavis has retired as the BCA rep to UCI after 38 years service. He remains an Honorary Life President of UCI.  
Ged Campion has taken over as BCA Rep to UCI.  
Russell Myers has stood down after 6 years on BCA Exec and received a vote of thanks for his dedicated work to British Caving.  
Two nominations came from the floor: Aodhain o Gabhann SUI (Group Rep) and Jess Brock NPC (Individual Rep)  
Jenny Potts and Andy Eavis are also elected as Members Reps.

### **BCA Council Meeting 10 September 2024.**

A proposal that the BCA Conservation & Access Working Group should be the budget holder for all the Regional Caving Councils's C&A spending and approve their budget forecasts was passed. Claims will be made directly by the RCC as usual.  
Proposal to change the BCA banking mandate was approved.  
The voting record of each voting member of BCA Council will now be recorded with the minutes. This was approved years ago but is now going to be implemented.

### **BCA Council Meeting 29 Oct 2024.**

Isaac Neale was co opted as BCA Youth and Development Officer.  
The Treasurer's motion on the Regional Council budget forecasting was approved.  
Forest of Dean CAGG was awarded £300 to cover legal fees for the purchase of Slaughter Stream Cave entrance.

### **BCA Council Meeting 17 Dec 2024**

£250 was allocated to prepare a UK bid for the UIS congress in 2029.  
HSBC mandate changes were approved.  
John Sheehy was approved to be the certifier of the BCA accounts.  
Council accepted the Treasurer's' budget proposal for 2025, noting that a membership fee increase may be needed in 2026.  
Two new member clubs were accepted for BCA membership:  
    Out on Rock   Morganwg Caving Club.

### **BCA Council Meeting Jan 28 2025**

Victoria Kocher of DCA has been appointed as Convenor of the BCA Conservation & Access Working Group.  
"Just Go " anonymous membership data (such as where members live by post code, age, gender etc is downloadable by Regional Councils.  
BCA AGM will be at Clapham Village Hall on 7 June.

Since the AGM in March 2024, we have:

- Published two newsletters (June and December)
- Attended Hidden Earth with a well-visited stall
- Sent roughly monthly mailshots to our mailing list
- Grown our mailing list from 669 to 783 subscribers
- Increased our online following (see Webmaster report)
- Published 26 news articles on our website/socials

As always, the news stories have been varied, from conservation, safety warnings, anchor installations, topo/description updates, training, and other news.

Our training workshops continue to sell out, and in particular our new-to-caving workshops have gained huge momentum and are routinely selling out. For example, the 26 April RRCPC-hosted event has sold 9 of the 10 spaces and still with two months to go.

I still have a healthy stock of new-to-caving leaflets and posters available, which I will bring to the AGM to promote our initiative, which you can take to help distribute to venues or at any of your events. I have one final CNCC-owned copy of Caves and Karst of the Yorkshire Dales #2 for gifting to landowners/farmers to support good relations.

The rebranding of CNCC as Council for the Northern Caving Community is mostly complete. Cave descriptions and the disclaimer page have been rebranded, the website completely rebranded, email signoffs updated, the newsletter rebranded, and new materials produced for Hidden Earth including a tablecloth, pull-up banners and a display. Topos are being updated with the new name as and when they are updated for other reasons. I published an article on this in our newsletter and all social media. Apart from a few rather ignorant responses and a bit of bewilderment from some cavers, the response was generally positive.

Separately to my PR/Comms role, this year I have also:

- Negotiated an updated access agreement for Robinsons' Pot
- Updated several of our cave descriptions and published new ones
- Worked with Gary to list caves pending anchoring on our website
- Responded to safety warnings and posted notices on the website
- Responded to reports of description and website content errors
- Worked with Ian Walker and Gary to address topo errors
- Participated in the CNCC constitution team

Dates for 2025:

- Newsletters around June/July and December - Content welcome
- Hidden Earth 26-28<sup>th</sup> September - Fly the flag for northern caving!

Finally, I'd welcome a volunteer to work with me on the PR/Comms role, specifically to explore opportunities to work with other organisations. For example, we have had opportunities to work more closely with the National Park in terms of web content and promoting caving. All of the routine PR/Comms stuff keeps me busy enough and with very little additional spare time to give, so it would be great to have someone to help explore these kinds of opportunities.

## **ACCESS CO-ORDINATORS**

### **Bowland**

**Tony Brown**

Two permits were given in 2024. The LUSS extension to Whitewell Cave has been opened up, which means that the new edition of Northern Caves needs updating.

We met with the Estate Surveyor at Whitewell in November, to discuss modernising access arrangements for the caves on Duchy of Lancaster Estate land. They are amenable to updating the current agreement, a project for the new CNCC Access Officer to follow up.

### **Excalibur**

**Matt Ewles**

No permits were issued in 2024, and two have been issued for 2025. Due to the extremely low demand, I generally just issue blank permit documents for people to fill in and use as they please, with some very informal efforts behind the scenes to avoid the very unlikely event of two groups turning up on the same day (which wouldn't be a disaster even if it did happen).

We continue to have good relations with the landowners. Cavers are a well-recognised sight for most gamekeepers, although displaying a permit document still provides reassurance that you aren't poachers.

A reminder that the sporting trip in Excalibur to the Main Streamway is actually really nice. The optional through trip from Jenga to Excalibur is . . . memorable.

A summer weekend in the North York Moors including a trip to Excalibur/Jenga should be on every club meets list, and I'm happy to help visitors to plan their weekend including recommending accommodation (including camping and camper vans), pubs and good walking options.

### **Robinsons' Pot / Fairy Holes**

**Dinny Davies**

We had a couple of bookings for Robinsons' Pot last year and one booking for Fairy Holes. This coming year, we currently have one booking for each. So there are still plenty of options for booking both caves, please get in touch if you are interested.

**Up to June 2024**

- Post-March AGM, the CNCC's name has been successfully updated across all digital platforms, including the website, social media, and UK Caving, to "Council for the Northern Caving Community". New logos have been designed for future publications.
- Introduced a new anchor locations section in the equipment area of the website. This section details caves approved for installation but pending completion, with some entries concealed under a generic "plus x more projects," as requested by Sam Allshorn. These forthcoming updates are also reflected in the fixed aids section on individual cave detail pages.
- Launched a new inclusivity section in the resources area. Although future content additions are planned, this section currently features basic contact information and a form for reporting issues/concerns.

**Up to October 2024**

- Collaborated with Matt Ewles to develop content for the Hidden Earth stall, emphasizing the CNCC's rebranding. The stall received positive feedback, with a notable period where the average age of stall operators was around 25 years. Appreciation goes out to all who assisted. CNCC distinguished itself as the sole regional council present at the conference, with no representation from BCA.

**Up to January 2025**

- Updated officer role descriptions in the 'Get Involved' section to source data from the newly added job description box in the admin centre (jobs section), rather than relying on free text. This enhancement ensures centralized editing for consistent job descriptions across the site.
- Added information on upcoming vacant roles to the contacts page, including details on how to get involved. Job descriptions for these roles are accessible from the contact page as well as via an info button on current contacts.
- Established a social media presence on Bluesky and incorporated the icon into the social media icons on the header and contacts page.
- Created a data archive page in the equipment section to serve as a repository for historic (pre-IC anchor) records.

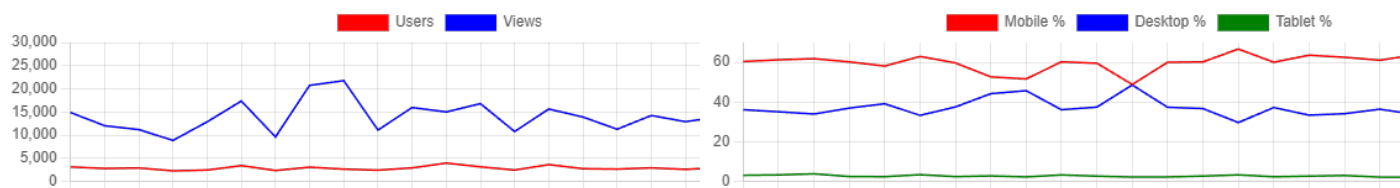
### **Recently and upcoming**

- The email system has been re-engineered to make it more reliable. Previously email sent directly to our mail server and mail for the secretary then forwarded to the Microsoft Exchange service. This resulted in poor deliverability. All email is now routed to the CNCC mail server via Microsoft instead.
- Undertaking a project to unify CNCC's digital services, addressing the growing number of functions offered to different groups over the years. The forthcoming update will introduce a centralized login system under the "My CNCC" banner, streamlining the login process and consolidating security and data protection within an account-style architecture. This system will also provide scalability for future functionality additions.
- Due to the huge amount of data CNCC have accumulated on its digital services, I have been considering future-proofing and backup options to ensure data is always available in the future. I have liaised with BCA on this to come up with a solution as well as external commercial options. I will present my conclusions and suggestions to the first committee meeting following the AGM.

## Analytics

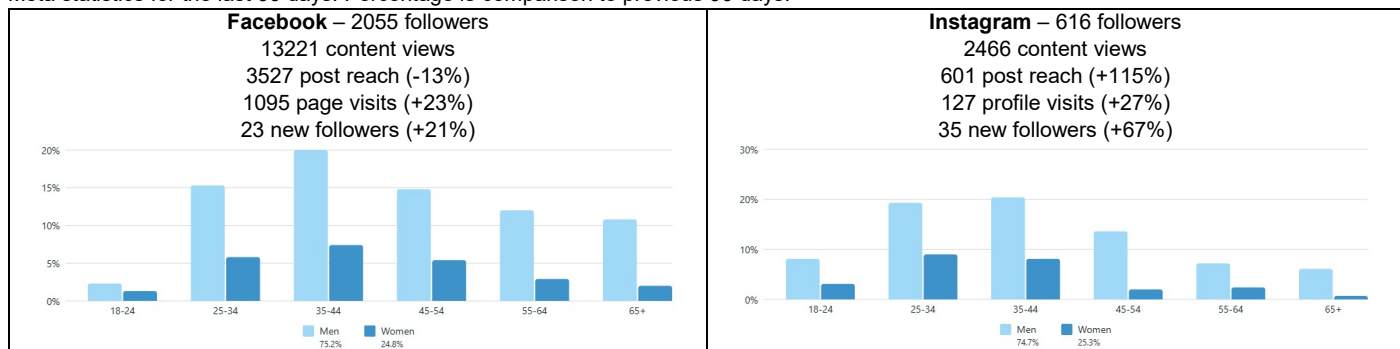
### Site visitors

	Mar 24	Apr 24	May 24	Jun 24	Jul 24	Aug 24	Sep 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25
Users	3,164	2,473	3,641	2,763	2,678	2,941	2,615	3,009	2,869	3,049	2,921	3,315
Views	16,802	10,783	15,635	13,916	11,285	14,244	12,916	13,940	14,219	28,205	13,234	11,481



## Social Media

Meta statistics for the last 90 days. Percentage is comparison to previous 90 days.



Social media followers comparison:

	CNCC	DCA	CSCC	CCC	DCUC	BCA	UK Caving
Facebook	2055	842	723	--	--	2900	4300
Instagram	616	--	--	--	--	--	1010
Bluesky	30	--	--	--	--	--	--
X	553*	569	--	--	--	251	724
Threads	70	--	--	--	--	--	--
YouTube	23	--	--	--	--	--	--

\*Followers have actually gone down for the last two committee reports. Perhaps an indication of a move away from X by a lot of people. The same has happened for BCA, DCA and UKC too.

## Mailing List

- The mailing list contains 786 people (8 have requested to be unsubscribed).



## Online Booking System

- 1286 registered users
- 6466 individual bookings have been made. This number includes 5685 approved bookings and 780 cancelled bookings.
- 285 (22%) made a positive statement that they are NOT BCA members.
- 879 (68%) said they are members of a club.
- Of the users who specified gender there are 231 female (18.5%), 919 male (73.8%) and 3 other (0.2%).
- The average age is 51 with the youngest 20 and oldest 84.

