

COUNCIL FOR THE NORTHERN CAVING COMMUNITY

British Caving Association

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE MEETING

22 June 2024 at 9:30am

Clapham Village Hall (LA2 8DZ)

- 1.0 Apologies for absence, and verification of quorum
- 2.0 Declaration of conflicts of interest
- 3.0 Acceptance of minutes from January Committee Meeting
(already reviewed for one month, before publication on website)
- 4.0 Matters arising (and updates) from January Committee Meeting

OFFICER	ACTION	UPDATE
Jill B	Correct and finalise October committee minutes	Done
Jill B	Prepare and circulate January committee minutes	Done
Kai T	Langcliffe Hall Estate - withdraw existing Memorandum of Understanding	Ongoing
Jill B	Club membership applications: request letters from proposer (ULSA) and seconder (YCC)	Done
Josh W	Establish Inclusivity working group	Done
Josh W & working group	Review website content for clarity for all users, particularly relating to the CNCC workshops	Ongoing
Matt E / Jill B	Draft motion for constitutional change regarding Independent Caver Representative	Done
Jill B	Write to BCA Insurance Manager for clarification on insurance cover if non-BCA member on committee	Done
Matt E / Jill B	Draft motion for CNCC name change, and prepare ballot on new name	Done

5.0 OFFICER REPORTS

(Available one week prior to meeting)

5.1	Chair	Andrew Hinde
5.2	Secretary	Jill Bolton
5.3	Treasurer	Pete Bann
5.4	Conservation Officer	Kay Easton
5.5	Access Officer	Kai Trusson
5.6	Training Officer	Ian Patrick
5.7	Other reports <i>(optional)</i> Access Co-ordinators, Web Admin, Anchors, PR, Inclusivity, Y&D, E&T	

6.0 CONFIRMATION OF CO-OPTED POSITIONS

(vote required for approval)

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

7.0 CONFIRMATION OF BCA REPRESENTATIVES

(vote required for approval)

BCA Council	Andrew Hinde
Conservation & Access Working Group	Kai Trusson
Youth & Development Working Group	Aila Taylor
Equipment & Training Working Group	Mark Richards & Ian Patrick

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

8.0	YORK UNIVERSITY SRT FACILITY	(Appendix 1)
9.0	CONSTITUTION	(Appendix 2)
10.0	FINANCE & BUDGETS	(Appendix 3)
11.0	Any other business	
12.0	Details of next meeting Committee Meeting to be held on 26 October at 9:30am Venue: Clapham Village Hall (Postcode LA2 8DZ)	

APPENDIX 1

AGENDA ITEM 8.0

YORK UNIVERSITY SRT FACILITY - UPDATE

Short version

Good news: SRT training facility is being installed on May 21/22

Bad news: £1000 promised by BCA Y&D Convenor in February remains unpaid

Long version

On 23 January, I was delighted to receive this email from Adrian Turner of YUCPC:

I just wanted to let you know that the Students' Union have confirmed that they will fund the remainder of the cost of the girder clamp installation. We have had some very productive conversations with both them and the university Estates Department who have agreed to test all the other anchors at the same time as the installation. It's now looking to just be a matter of arranging a date for the installation!

Shortly after, on 21 February, Jonathan Lester, the Y&D Convenor sent this email:

As you may have heard based on the change in arrangements in regard to the YUCPC Application I am happy for this to go forward and the BCA will cover the CNCC costs, is it possible to send me the amount the CNCC agreed to pay for the equipment and works, and then I can get the ball rolling to get this amount paid back to the CNCC asap!

I immediately thanked Jonathan, confirming that we had already transferred £1000 plus the contribution of £700 from generous members of Northern Pennine Club.

This reimbursement was referred to in the Y&D Report to BCA Council on 5 March:

The York University Caving Pothole Club (YUCPC) has secured its funding due to a change in the University's willingness to "Fund and Install" the required equipment for the student club to return to its roots in terms of training facilities. An agreement has been reached that the funds approved by the CNCC will be reimbursed by the BCA, covering the costs from our budget rather than the CNCC's.

Jonathan Lester did not attend this online meeting, but the minutes state:

In the meeting there was a discussion on where the money for York University was coming from, the Y&D report currently states that the money would come from BCA, the report should probably state that the money will be paid from the Y&D budget, this needs to be checked, Russell Myers to talk to Jonathan Lester.

Since that date, there has been no communication from the BCA Y&D Convenor. He has not been in contact with YUCPC, or replied to CNCC emails. He did not submit a report to the May Council meeting, and did not attend this meeting.

I now therefore intend to pursue other routes to obtain "our £1000" from the BCA.

Jill Bolton
CNCC Secretary

APPENDIX 2

AGENDA ITEM 9.0

CNCC CONSTITUTION

The CNCC is an autonomous constituent body of the British Caving Association (and its predecessors). As such, we are guided by our constitution:

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

The current constitution was extensively re-written in 2015, and updated following the AGMs in 2016, 2021 and 2024. However, there are still some issues that might merit future consideration.

A few examples include:

- Associate Membership - is this still required for cave access?
- Officers - chairman or chairperson? webmaster or web administrator?
- do officers really need to belong to "full member clubs"?
- Access - Section 10 does not reflect current procedures
- Meetings - would it be useful to hold a brief committee meeting,
immediately following the AGM?

CNCC Officers would appreciate some guidance from this committee regarding whether we should continue "tweaking" the current constitution, or whether we should carry out a more detailed review, prior to adopting a new constitution at the 2025 AGM.

Furthermore, we would welcome any volunteers who might be willing to help in this process!

APPENDIX 3 - AGENDA ITEM 10.0

FINANCE & BUDGETS

(for discussion)

Some of you will already be aware that the BCA is no longer "sitting on a pot of gold". The new treasurer explained the current financial position in his report to the BCA Council meeting on May 14:

<https://british-caving.org.uk/about-bca/bca-council/official-documents/>

To summarise, in 2015 BCA reserves were thought to be excessive, so the membership fee was almost halved, and regional councils were positively encouraged to spend. Since then the effects of inflation, Covid and the CroW legal case have brought the reserves close to a minimum. The BCA has actually been running at a deficit in recent years.

BCA Council have now realised they have no choice but to increase annual membership fees to individual members and to clubs. In order to keep this rise to a minimum, they have also decided to keep costs under tighter control. The alternative would be a much larger increase in fees.

So, how does this affect the CNCC? Firstly, there is no suggestion that we should reduce our expenditure (although we will be "strongly encouraged" to look for other sources of funding). On the contrary, we should be extremely proud of all the work carried out by the CNCC and its dedicated, enthusiastic volunteers.

We have a range of excellent projects to promote caving, and to encourage new participants. The "jewel in the crown" is our much-envied programme of workshops, attended by cavers from the whole country. Our very popular website includes an extensive library of topos, based on anchors frequently installed by the CNCC Anchor Team. Our Conservation volunteers promptly deal with any issues reported via the website, especially if there are safety implications:

<https://cncc.org.uk/caving/report/>

This inevitably results in the CNCC being the largest-spending regional council, and the BCA Council would appreciate being given advance notice of our spending requirements. In fact, a clause in "BCA Funding of Regional Councils" states:

*If a region expects its funding claim to be more than 150%
of the previous year's claim it should notify the BCA Treasurer
as soon as this is known and the reason for the large increase.*

The CNCC did not comply with this request when our claim jumped from £4230 in 2022 to £8691 in 2023.

At present, there is no mention in the Manual of Operations of annual budgets. We may therefore wish to consider setting up a formal process for this.

*Jill Bolton
CNCC Secretary*