

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Reports for 30th June 2018 Committee Meeting

Chairman's Report

Subsequent to my report to the January meeting where I outlined the need to get CNCC known amongst the institutions that can have an effect on caving – I have had a very useful meeting with North Pennines UNESCO Geopark Partners Group. Before this visit they had virtually no knowledge of the considerable cave resource within their boundary. I would like to thank Tony Harrison and John Dale for providing such excellent photos of Hudgill Burn Mine Cave and Knock Fell Caverns to illustrate the importance of these North Pennine gems.

The upshot of this meeting is that they would like to hold a joint field meeting with BCRA and CNCC this time next year. It will be a few presentations on maze caves and a few site visits to the caves and mines which best illustrate the diversity of caves in the North Pennines. An exhibition at the Bowlees Visitor Centre is also on the cards.

The planned visit to Fairy Holes Cave in April to escort the Landowners family on a guided trip had to be postponed. But this will hopefully be rescheduled.

The CPC and BPC have been busy making improvements to the GG tractor access route once again. Limestone ballast has been used from dig spoil heaps to fill deep ruts in the Bar Pot area.

During the BPC winch meet two old digs were capped with concrete lintels. This is part of an ongoing program of long term conservation projects across the Ingleborough Estate.

Natural England Health and Safety Issues with Underground Working.

The meeting that I had scheduled with H&S in April (as reported in the last AGM minutes) did not go well. They have made it impossible for me to continue as the project officer for the Stories In Stone Cave Conservation Project.

The outcome of this will be that Kay Easton will take over as project officer and CNCC will remain as the sole partner in the project. Natural England will withdraw completely from the project and leave CNCC to adopt its own H&S terms which reflect the industry standard. No travel expenses will be paid by NE on future cave conservation work.

Andrew Hinde – CNCC Chairman

Secretary's Report

The March AGM was attended by 17 clubs (18 in 2017, 15 in 2016). While the attendance seems reasonably stable, and the quorum of 10 has not yet come close to being problematic, it would be nice to get some more clubs regularly attending (discussed more later in this report).

Since the last Committee meeting, newsletter number 7 has been published, with some excellent content showcasing the hard work of the CNCC in matters relating to anchors, conservation, training and cave access across our region. Thank you to all the contributors. It is always encouraging, during my visits to various caving huts across the country, to see our newsletter pinned to the wall rather than being used as a convenient firelighter.

Cave access has been a rapidly changing area over the past few years, and never more so than since the last Committee meeting. Tim will report on this in more detail but below is a summary of my involvement (in the form of secretarial support and facilitation) over the past six months.

- (1) We have announced our opt-out from the Langcliffe Estate agreement and provided guidance to cavers accessing the caves.
- (2) Following the acceptance of Tim's suggestions at the AGM, I have worked with Gary to create a means for caves to be 'tagged' on our website as to whether they are on CRoW access land or not, and with Tim to identify which, of the hundreds of caves in our database, are on CRoW access land and which are not. I have now completed updating the status of all caves on the website. This will put cavers in a better position to judge what, if any, permissions might need to be sought for all major caves in our region.
- (3) Working with Geoff, Tim and Gary, I have helped to coordinate the 'launch' of the next phase of testing of the online booking system. All cavers applying for a permit by the current mechanism will be invited to trial the online system and provide feedback.

All these initiatives have been communicated as widely as possible via our newsletter (or will be in our upcoming newsletter), Facebook, the CNCC news page, email to our members and UK Caving.

I commend Tim for his innovative thinking and his efforts to drive forward all these access initiatives, and Gary and Geoff, who have given up considerable time to work on the online system. My role, as always has been merely secretarial and facilitative.

Marble Sink has now been IC anchored and a topo uploaded to the CNCC website. Thanks to Mark Sims and Toby Buxton, two very slim cavers, who have written a fun report on this work to appear in the next CNCC newsletter. They have also anchored Hall of the Mountain King (Easegill, not Craig a Ffynnon... that would be controversial) and a topo is also now online.

Roaring Hole, Gary and I have been personally involved with this. We visited earlier this year where we almost managed to drown our Anchor Coordinator, who must have wished he'd stayed in bed. Thankfully Simon, Gary and I managed to get to the bottom, albeit soaked, and remove all the old unacceptable anchors with Simon's excellent home-made anchor pulling rig. Gary and I have since returned and installed new ones on the main pitch, but a further trip is needed in drier conditions to

finish the job at the final pitches which are much lower down the cave beneath some wet chokes. A cleanup of a large quantity of digging debris is planned via the Northern Pennine Club in August. This will be followed by a new topo and route description on the CNCC website, plus a newsletter article to reinvigorate interest in this rather quirky but seldom visited pothole.

I have received two submissions of route descriptions for the CNCC website, which is encouraging. Sunset Hole and Notts II (route to Lost Johns') will soon be added. These descriptions will continue to focus only on the major sporting routes (and are a description of a route, not the cave), and for anything more complex they refer to a much more thorough literature source (e.g. Northern Caves or Not for the Faint Hearted). These descriptions have the added bonus of ensuring most newer cavers become familiar with the CNCC and see us as a favourable resource.

Since the last Committee meeting, as instructed, I have contacted the BCA Y&D group to offer CNCC support and encouragement, and Tony Harrison to thank him for the funding.

At the last meeting, Peter Hambly (Northern Pennine Club) was tasked with putting together a guidance document on GDPR and its impact on caving clubs, which he has done. This is supplied as a downloadable document alongside these reports and agenda, and this is up for discussion at this meeting along with a suggested data protection policy that I have written (see agenda appendix 1). I feel that Pete's document is extremely comprehensive and summarises a complex subject very well. If you spend 30 minutes reading and digesting it you should be substantially more informed about GDPR, and hopefully more reassured of what clubs may need to consider to be compliant.

My personal feeling (and I emphasise the 'personal' in that) is that providing reasonable measures are in place, clubs have little to worry about from GDPR. Most clubs can collect and hold data such as email/postal/phone contact details under 'legitimate interests'. The key seems to be; (A) Ensure you have a data protection policy and make it available to all members; one is not hard to write; and consider getting members to consent to it at the point of renewing their membership (although the need for this is debatable under 'legitimate interests'); (B) Not to hold details you do not need to hold (e.g. medical details, ethnicity, bank details, members who have left), as this may necessitate additional considerations; (C) Not to use data for anything that would not be 'reasonably expected' for membership of a caving club, and; (D) Ensure the data is secure and only those who need to see that data have access to it (a common breach of this often occurs when an email is sent to all members from a club or private email account without use of the 'blind carbon copy' function, thus all recipients can see the email addresses of all other recipients). Making data available to other members (e.g. member contact lists) is more challenging to deal with.

The above is just my personal take on matters; it is of course up to each club to evaluate the guidance document and come to your own conclusions as to what is appropriate for your club.

The draft data protection policy has already been implemented in the beta-testing version of the online cave booking system; it must be consented to as part of registration.

At the AGM in March I was tasked with contacting all full member clubs who have been inactive for at least four years (i.e. during my time as Secretary) to see if they wished to remain full members and to encourage their involvement. The clubs who fell into this category were:

Airedale Caving Club #
Bolton Speleo Club #
Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team
CNCC Technical Group
Elysium Underground Group #
Flat Learning Curve Pothole Club #
Lancashire Caving and Climbing Club #
Morley Pothole Club #
North York Moors Caving Club
Pegasus Caving Club #
Pendle Caving Club
Swaledale Outdoor Club
St Helens Caving Club

All clubs were contacted between 2nd and 4th April, thus nearly three months ago. Those clubs marked with # replied (all others did not, and St Helens cannot be contacted as their sole email address has been bouncing emails for the last several months).

Pegasus Caving Club: Their Treasurer replied to confirm they were still active, requested that membership is retained, but made no commitment to attending any future meetings.

Flat Learning Curve Pothole Club: Replied to confirm that their membership exists as a 'historical anomaly'. They are still an active club but have no intention to attend any future CNCC meetings. They suggested that they are removed from our membership lists.

Lancashire Caving and Climbing Club: Confirmed that their club only ever really had a few active caving members, and caving activities have now ceased. The representative said he is now a member of RRCPC and is kept well informed by their representative.

Bolton Speleo Club: Their representative confirmed that they are still an active club with members living around the Ingleton area. They would like to remain a part of the CNCC. Their representative used to attend meetings but became disillusioned and struggled for time to continue. He said that he would try to attend future meetings.

Elysium Underground Group: Their representative confirmed that they are still active and have eight members. Their usual representative has left the country, and they haven't had anyone who can make it to Hellifield. They aspire to remain involved but cannot make any commitment.

Morley Pothole Club: Said they would discuss their CNCC membership at their next meeting (end of April) but no reply received since.

Airedale Caving Club: Confirmed they are still active with several caving trips per year. They are still keen but could not make any promises to attend any future CNCC meetings. They confirmed that they are fully supporting of the CNCC and it's aims, but understood the need to retain an active membership, so would understand if we needed to remove their membership.

Membership and member involvement is something I would really like to try to focus on over the next several months. While it is great that the CNCC has most of the 'big' Dales clubs involved, which no doubt means we reach more than 1000 cavers in some way, this is far from the number of people who regularly cave in our region. There are many clubs who taken no involvement in the CNCC, and participation from non-club cavers has not really increased despite the introduction of the new individual caver (IC) representative position on the Committee (so far vacant).

Quite how we go about achieving this I am not sure. I know that David agreed to follow this up via CHECC to try to get student clubs more involved. There are very active student clubs in Durham and Newcastle, to name but a few, who have never expressed any interest in CNCC business. I am open to suggestions, no matter how radical; but in the absence of any feedback I will consider putting some suggestions of my own forward to a future meeting.

I am pleased to see this meeting provide the opportunity to discuss the future interaction between the instructed caving community and the CNCC. We will have two representatives of instructed caving at the meeting and I urge the Committee to take the opportunity to discuss openly any concerns and opportunities to try to find a mutually beneficial future relationship.

I have now completed the digitisation of all CNCC AGM documents dating back to 1964, which were amongst a large crate of old documents handed to me by Ric and Pat Halliwell at the start of this year. These have all be uploaded to the website meetings page. They make for some interesting reading. I have since acquired a large package of committee meeting minutes spanning a similar timeframe. This is likely to keep me busy for the foreseeable future.

I have been in discussion with the instigator of the NECAFE cave exploration awards that was reported in newsletter six last year. Sadly, no applications were put forward for this award. This is an excellent effort by an individual (who is putting up their own funding) to try to promote a more communicative exploration culture in our region (similar to awards in the Mendip), which I believe is to be highly commended. Our informal discussions have revolved around ways that the CNCC might be able to partner with the scheme to try to make it a success. This is very much at the hypothetical discussion stage and of course no actions will be taken without Committee approval. It is possible that by the time of this meeting I will be able to elaborate under Any Other Business.

The next newsletter will be getting produced in August and I would like for content to be sent to me before the end of July please.

I'd like to thank Kay Easton who has offered to take minutes for this meeting; I will be present but personal commitments in July mean that I would struggle to get them written up and distributed in the timeframe everyone has become used to. Kay has kindly stepped in to help here.

Finally, next March will mark five years since I became Secretary and I am extremely interested to hear from anyone who might be interested in the role for 2019, to bring new ideas. There are other opportunities I am interested in pursuing in 2019 should someone be interested in liberating me from this role (and I would still aspire to stay involved in the CNCC in some way).

Matt Ewles – CNCC Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Financial Status as of 21st June 2018:

Business Community Account: £3212.33

Business Saver Account: £14517.70

Since the AGM meeting, the following payments/receipts made:

£30.00 paid to the Hellifield Institute for the hire of the meeting hall.

Outstanding expenses of £12.36 paid to Ric Halliwell re cave access and postage.

Cheques covering travel expenses for FOUL Pot work have been distributed (only F. Rattray has cashed cheque at this time).

No update re. BCA Grant to Regional Councils, for the 2017 claim (this includes Anchor Replacement Project cash).

Cheques from 1st Aid Course participants paid into account (one by mistake, so Pete Monk due a refund).

Cheque for copies of Caves and Karst posted 15/04/2018 – this has not been banked yet.

I have talked to an accountant re. unsolicited donations. He thinks that we should not be liable for corporation tax for these as they are not income/profit.

Pete Bann – CNCC Treasurer

Conservation Officer's Report

Another quiet period. Work on installing a post and rail fence around FOUL Pot, postponed from 2017, was completed at the end of March. NPC are planning a clear-up of Roaring Hole in August. There are various other projects in the pipeline, more details when we are in a position to start work.

New volunteers are always welcome, for weekend or weekday working parties. No specific skills are necessary, but if you have them, we will do our best to make use of them. On the job training is given as needed. Occasionally there may be the opportunity to attend a training course. Tools will be provided, but you are responsible for providing your own protective clothing - stout footwear, preferably with steel toe caps, stout gloves, weatherproof clothing, helmet. You will also need to provide your own packed lunch and hot drinks. If you'd like to be placed on the mailing list to be informed of future projects, please contact Kay Easton on conservation@cncc.org.uk

Kay Easton – CNCC Conservation Officer

Access Officer's Report

Greetings to all. I hope to see you at the meeting. My reports are mostly informative but there are a couple of items to think about so please do bring your ideas along.

The on-line cave booking system is progressing as planned. Since the Bradford winch meet we have been operating a full beta-test on the system. The plan is to run this until after the Craven winch meet and then, if everyone is in agreement, move to full implementation. At that stage I hope to start negotiating with the other two estates.

Langcliffe Estate. Since my last full report I have held a meeting with a representative of the Marshfield Trust (20th March). This went very well and I spent most of the hour explaining the realities of our sport. I followed up the few concerns with details of the BCA insurance policy and some information on the popular caves. Recently I have had further discussion by phone and have supplied a map with the most popular caves marked. I have also presented the estate with the Caves and Karst book.

I attended a **Cave & Crag Access Group** meeting on 23rd May. Interesting to note that four cavers were present which demonstrates our new willingness to engage with outside groups. This signal is really the main thing to come out of the meeting as well as updating the group on cave access issues. We continue to try to ensure bats do not become a restrictive issue for access as they have in other parts of the country. I continue to try to find ways of informing NP staff on the value of caving to the region.

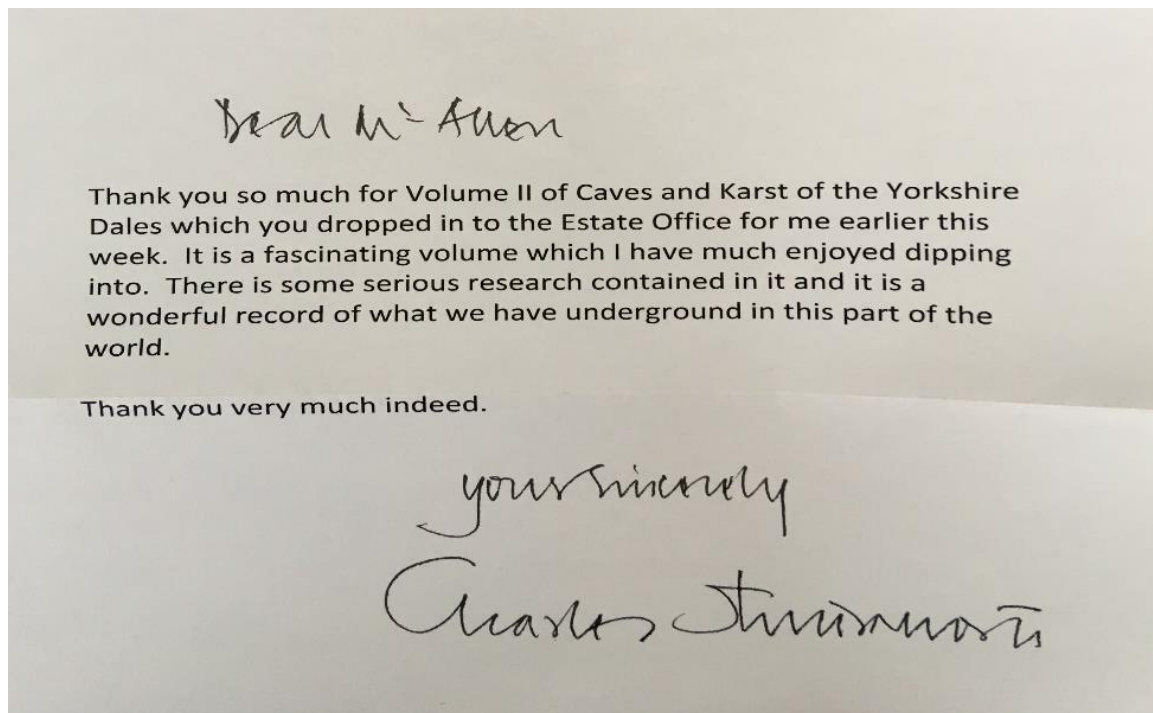
The National Park Management Plan. As we suspected the Steering Group have dropped the recommendation to specifically include "raising the profile of the underground environment and encouraging participation in caving". However, the draft plan does include statements on the special qualities of the National Park which includes several references to caves and karst, the three counties, etc. Although caving has not been included in the top level of the plan itself, the profile has certainly been raised and there is better recognition of the special qualities caves and caving bring to the National Park. Any related matters such as improving interpretation will receive positive support.

Approval for the **Three Counties interpretation board** at Bull Pot Farm is still on-going and making progress. It has taken a certain amount of determination to get this far but there is light at the end of the tunnel. At a brief meeting with Mr Henry Bowring he indicated that he would give his approval once finally satisfied. The National Park committed to a mock-up of the board and there are just a few minor points to finalise. Fingers crossed.

It is worth noting that **Mark Allum**, Head of Access and Engagement at the National Park, has retired from the job. As a caver Mark was an excellent contact who fully understood issues related to caving. I look forward to meeting his replacement soon.

Updating CRoW on the website. This been progressed by Matt and Gary and may be completed by the time of our meeting. Many thanks to Sam Allshorn for using his Northern Caves database to help identify which caves are on Access Land and which are not. Please help promote sales of the guidebook. Also worth noting is that BCA policy on CRoW has now been ratified by the AGM. See details in my report on BCA matters.

Caves and Karst of the Yorkshire Dales. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor and a good deal from Tony Waltham and BCRA we were able to purchase copies of the Caves and Karst book to present to some of our landowners as a gesture of good will. So far I have presented books to Henry Bowring, Lord Shuttleworth, Braida Garth Farm, Ingleborough Estate and the National Park offices at Bainbridge and Grassington. Who else can the committee suggest and who would you best recommend to make the presentations. This is a superb PR idea and one I would be happy to extend further. Please note the response below from Lord Shuttleworth:



In other **Media and PR** I hope you have all seen the caving feature in The Visitor Magazine. This is an annual production with a print run of 125,000. I have also assisted the BBC who were looking to include an underground story in a forthcoming series on the Dales. This is off the main caving areas and may feature lead mining. I gave an introductory talk on caving and the Three Counties to the Austwick Field and Historical Society. It seemed to go down very well and I would be happy to give the same talk to other groups. Any suggestions? ...and of course CNCC received the highest compliment being featured on the satirical website the Dankness Below.

Can I issue a reminder for all clubs and groups to consider clearing up any **old digs** they know about. Surface digs in particular can look very messy and reflect badly on cavers when seen by landowners, farmers and the public. It doesn't really matter who left the mess, the important thing is to clear it up. Can club committees please revisit this issue and see if any of their members, past or present, have left digs in a poor state. Many thanks to those who have recently helped me in this regard. You know who you are.

Tim Allen— CNCC Access Officer

Training Officer's Report

Due to ongoing health problems, I was unable to attend or report at the AGM. Because of this, the report below covers goings on since January. Whilst I am happy to continue as Training Officer for the rest of the year, my health will continue to be unreliable. If anyone would be interested in assisting me with organising events, I would be keen to hear from you! Drop me an email (training@cncc.org.uk) if you'd like to know more.

There was a large amount of confusion among people signed up as to whether the **First Aid for Cavers** course in February was cancelled because their cheques were not cashed. The reason for this was because I collected them (to monitor signups) before posting them on to Pete (Treasurer). Unfortunately, I was unable to respond to emails to clarify that the event was going ahead, and because of this the turnout was small. Those who did attend reported that it was a useful and enjoyable session. I aim to organise another first aid session for the autumn.

The **Introduction to Paperless Surveying** course was run by Chris Fox and Nick Bairstow, finishing in April. Chris and Nick took charge of most of the organization of this as well as developing the materials and put a huge amount of effort in. It seems that the course was well received, and I will be getting in touch with them to discuss running it again in future.

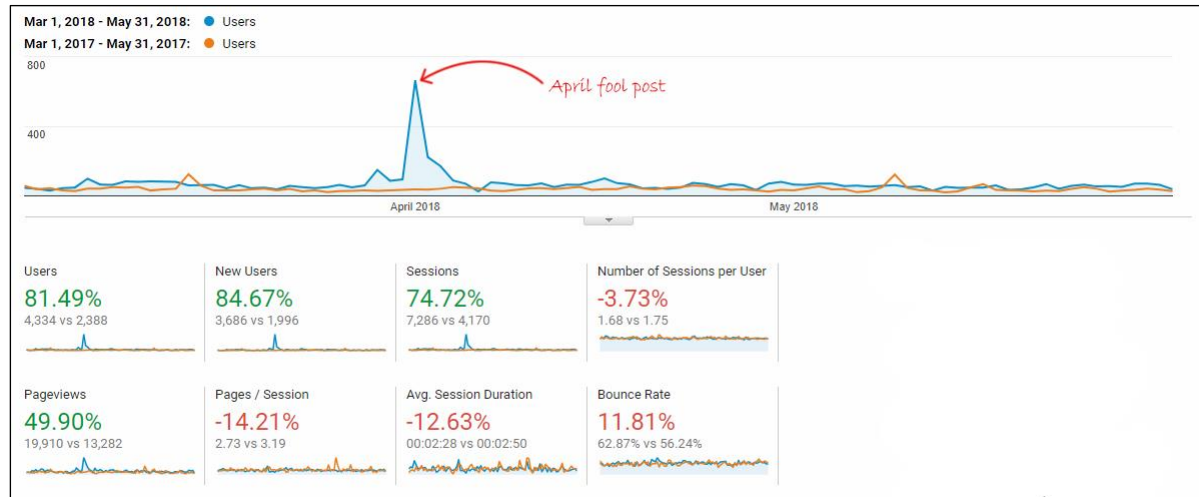
As well as running the first aid course again in the autumn, I intend to pick up with work arranging more regular SRT training through the CNCC.

Maz Holloway – CNCC Training Officer

Webmaster's Report

Site statistics from Google Analytics

Site statistics for the three months to the end of May compared to the same period in 2017. Most notably, the users are up around 80% on the previous period and the obvious blip of the April fool's joke post which generated huge publicity (all positive). The April fool's joke was removed from Facebook and the website shortly after.



Facebook

The Facebook page stands at 625 page likes and 649 followers. Data for 28 days from May 27 to June 23 2018 shows the following statistics:

Page Views	Page Likes	Page Followers	Reach	Post Engagements
53	14	15	5137	916
Up 179%	Up 250%	Up 400%	Up 1010%	Up 313%

Topo and description downloads

Since adding the cave descriptions and rigging topos in December 2016, the following download totals have been counted...

	Up to June 2017	Up to June 2018	Top 3 (as at June 2018)
Descriptions	8,289	22,242	Alum Pot (1,297), Ease Gill (1,159), Gaping Gill (1,142)
Topos	15,666	36,126	Bar Pot (1,183), Lancaster Hole & Cow Pot (1,148), Grange Rigg and Christmas Pot (1,153)

Recently a change has been made to how the rigging topos are organised. One topo file can now be added to multiple caves. This was done mostly as a result of the recent topo for Hall of the Mountain King which applied to several different entrances to Ease Gill depending on where you are coming

from. I hope to further refine this by being able to generate month by month statistics rather than as a whole since they first appeared online.

As mentioned, two new topos have been added this month – Hall of the Mountain King in Ease Gill and Marble Sink.

Recent site updates

Online cave booking system

The online booking system has been working well in initial testing with a few bugs being ironed out. It has now been rolled out to wider testing to get better test data. From the start of June, Geoff has been asking anyone who requests a permit for Ingleborough Estate to do it through the online system instead. This means we are getting more registrations to allow that part to be tested with a wider audience. I have had very few reports of issues but testing is on-going.

Open Access Symbol

Following research and data gathering by Tim Allen and Sam Allshorn, most caves in the database now have a symbol denoting if that cave is located on open access land. An information page about this change has also been added to the caves section of the website.

Gary Douthwaite – CNCC Webmaster

Anchor Coordinator (Simon Wilson)

No report provided.

Meet's Secretary Reports

No matters to report for any area.

CNCC/BCA Representative's Report

Caving Finances and reimbursements to regional councils – a point for discussion.

I think it is worth considering some of these financial facts and figures before gathering the thoughts of the committee. There are some top line figures as a back drop to this item.

The BCA is holding reserves of £235,000. This is more than twice the reserve needed for insurance excess and rainy day money. The last three years of BCA finances has seen a surplus added to the reserves of approximately 10K, 20K & 20K (£50,000 in all). The BCA treasurer calculates that across all caving organisations we are holding reserves of more than one million pounds. Our own CNCC reserve is standing at around £18,000.

One way or another we all have a share in this money whether it is BCA, CNCC or others. What is clear it that this sort of reserve money is losing value and has been for some time given interest rates and inflation over the last decade.

More specifically... at the April BCA Council meeting figures were reported for regional council reimbursement. I was quite surprised at the disparity between the regions and brought it up for discussion along with the Cambrian CC rep.

2016	Total	C&A	Admin
CNCC	310.93	131.80	179.13
CSCC	1713.16	1614.00	99.17
DCA	513.15	229.70	283.45
CCC	343.46	203.84	139.62
DCUC	180.99	96.15	84.84

2017	Total	C&A	Admin
CNCC	480.90	196.63	284.27
CSCC	2915.00	2759.00	120.00
DCA	1534.00	1368.00	166.00
CCC	500.00	estimate	
DCUC	50.00	estimate	

Following the meeting I asked the BCA treasurer for a breakdown of the regional spending. I was interested to see specifically what sort of C&A expenditure each region claimed for. Could we learn anything from real examples? Unfortunately, the BCA treasurer has spent the last three months avoiding passing on that detail. Some of the expenditure can be assumed. It was mentioned at the April meeting that the cost of replacing the CSCC padlocks and keys was estimated at £800 but that was to be included in 2018 expenditure. I guess that much of CSCC expenditure is maintaining locks and gates as that is their thing. I expect some of the Access Controlling Bodies receive some funding through regional councils too. The DCA have probably capped a number of mines and bought a number of 'Derbyshire keys'. I wonder if there is more we should be claiming for or other things we should be spending 'our' money on? Do we need to be more ambitious?

I do realise that we have had access to other lines of funding, some of which may be coming to an end. I enclose (see separate PDF document available alongside the agenda/reports) the BCA's own financial rules if anyone wishes to wade through. Regions are unable claim on some items and perhaps this is time for review. Should we be able to make a hard copy of our regional newsletter more widely available for example? Covering the full cost of the IC anchors is another issue (now resolved?).

I would like to gather your thoughts as to whether you would like me to pursue any of these issues with BCA.

The BCA AGM June 2018

This was held in the Forest of Dean at the same venue as the NAMHO event. I counted around 40 people in the room which is considered a good turnout. I also noted the presence of a number of young cavers which is indicative of the interest in Youth and Development and, I hope, of the green shoots of progress. It is worth noting that there were 278 at the CHECC AGM event last autumn.

In the order that items came up...

After lengthy due process the AGM ratified the new BCA policy on CRoW by a very large majority in both houses. It is a short policy statement with 5 points (shown over the page). The most significant change being that "the BCA holds the opinion that the CRoW Act already permits access for recreational caving".

The webmaster reported that numbers of members opting in to receive the BCA newsletter was declining and is only 8% of total membership. It is a pretty good newsletter now edited by journalist and caver David Rose and should reach a wider audience. Data regulations appear to require an opt-in to receive the newsletter and that seems to put people off. Perhaps we could encourage more cavers to opt in.

The BCA has a new Safeguarding Officer (child protection). He is Chris Boardman and seems very knowledgeable and does not want to see this issue put clubs off taking young people caving. He is preparing some advice and documentation for the BCA October meeting. If you have any questions at all for Chris he is happy to help. Please get in touch via BCA.

BCA also has a new Chairman – Les Williams has taken over the reins from Andy Eavis. Nick Williams, BCA secretary is definitely stepping down next year and needs a replacement. Similarly does the position of Treasurer and C&A Officer. Put the word out and let's get more northern cavers involved.

Jane Allen was elected as Publications & Information Officer, the position vacated by Les Williams. Training Officer is Nigel Atkins. The Club representatives seem to recycle themselves but it was good to see two new youngsters taking on the Individual rep positions.

BCA policy statement on the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW)

1. The British Caving Association holds the opinion that the CRoW Act already permits access for recreational caving. (Note: this view has been verified by the legal opinion of Dinah Rose QC and supported by many external organisations and individuals as well as its own members).
2. The access principles of the CRoW Act are in accord with BCA's own principles of improving access to caves. The BCA encourages caving bodies who have control of access to caves on 'access land' to renegotiate access agreements to reflect the rights provided by the CRoW Act.
3. The conservation of caves are important. BCA conservation code applies to all caves regardless of the land designation. The BCA agrees with the CRoW guiding principle of the least restrictive option to meet the conservation or safety need.
4. The BCA believe that any particular conservation concerns on CRoW 'access land' can be adequately dealt with by those means already set out in the legislation. BCA recognise that many of the concerns raised prior to introduction of the Act never materialised and access to caves should be no different.
5. The BCA will support cavers in their work to develop access to caves on CRoW access land.

Policy as agreed at the 2018 Annual General meeting.

On to the motions, the first three put forward by me!

Council instructed to establish a working group to look at future vision, strategy and constitutional reform. Passed. See council meeting which follows AGM.

Appoint a technical advisor to set up remote access to BCA council meetings. Passed. Tim Allen to investigate.

Investigate electronic voting on motions and nominations at BCA AGMs. Passed. Will Burns to investigate.

The two motions concerning training were withdrawn after lengthy attempts to amend failed. These concerned renaming the training officer Recreational Training Officer and setting terms of reference for the training committee. It was obvious that the CSCC had been heavily involved in this with their representative a major participant of attempts to agree an amendment. Have we been involved in this?

The Youth & Development committee was formally established as a standing committee. Passed. Rostam Namaghi elected to head.

The Legal and Insurance standing committee disbanded. Passed.

The next AGM to be held in the Dales on 10th June 2019. I have offered our help.

A council meeting follows the AGM but is traditionally brief dealing only with urgent matters and the appointment of officers.

The CRoW working group to be convened by David Rose. I will sit for continuity and CNCC area rep.

The Vision and Reform Working Group to be convened by Hellie Adams.

Other groups and co-opted positions largely remained the same.

I am happy to be formally co-opted into the role of CNCC rep for the next year.

Tim Allen – CNCC Representative to the BCA