

COUNCIL FOR THE NORTHERN CAVING COMMUNITY

British Caving Association

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE MEETING

18 January 2025 at 9:30am
Clapham Village Hall (LA2 8DZ)

- 1.0 Apologies for absence, and verification of quorum
[Quorum: six committee members, plus one officer]
- 2.0 Declaration of conflicts of interest
- 3.0 Acceptance of minutes from October Committee Meeting
(already reviewed for one month, before publication on website)
- 4.0 Matters arising (and updates) from October Committee Meeting

| OFFICER | ACTION | UPDATE |
|-----------------|---|--------|
| Jill B | Finalise June committee minutes | Done |
| Jill B | Prepare and circulate October committee minutes | Done |
| Jill B & others | Constitution Working Group - prepare draft | Done |
| Jill / Kai T | Obtain precise wording of KT's email to Langcliffe Hall Estate, re Memorandum of Understanding. | Done |
| Tony B / Jill B | Contact Duchy of Lancaster re access to Bowland caves | Done |
| Matt E/ Ray B | To discuss hosting topos and surveys for Northern Ireland caves | |
| Andrew H | To establish lead time for manufacture of IC Anchors, directly with manufacturer, or via BCA E&T team | |

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 | Various |

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 6.0 | ANCHORING PROJECTS | (Appendix 1) |
| 7.0 | FAR COUNTRY LADDER | (Appendix 2) |
| 8.0 | CONSTITUTION | (Appendix 3) |
| 9.0 | ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025 | (Appendix 4) |

10.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.0 Details of next meeting
AGM to be held on 22 March at 10:00am
Venue: Clapham Village Hall (Postcode LA2 8DZ)

APPENDIX 1
AGENDA ITEM 6.0
ANCHORING PROJECTS

(for approval)

Committee approval is requested for the following projects:

(From Anchor Team Report, October 2024)

Mayday Hole, Lungs Pitch - a second route for this popular new pothole

(From Sam Allshorn)

Deaths Dead Hole - bottom pitches to the Lost Johns streamway

Ireby II

- Escalator Rift around Jupiter Cavern (numerous short pitches and traverses)
- Cripple Creek pitches

County Pot

Numerous handlines including:

- climb out of Brown & Smelly Chamber on single expansion anchor
- Cadbury Traverse (or better still, just remove the rope)

Clough Passage pitches

Mancunian Way pitches

Link Pot - traverse in to reach Tiger Inlet

APPENDIX 2
AGENDA ITEM 7.0
FAR COUNTRY LADDER OPTIONS

Sam Allshorn
(for decision)

KEY POINTS

Ladders have been in place for many decades.
Ladders aren't in good state of repair.

BACKGROUND

A 6.5m ladder provides a route up into a 5m hole in the roof, giving access to higher level passages. There are numerous shorter sections of passage and several potentially interesting digging sites, although none are currently being actively dug.

Echo Rift is also accessed from here. This is a ~20m pitch rigged for SRT, providing access to Far Country and Far Waters and connection to Ingleborough Cave.

An inspection of both ladders was carried out, along with the access route, considering a range of options in terms of installation, transport and also to take some measurements.

FINDINGS

There are currently two ladders one lain over the other. They are both slightly short in terms of providing the safest approach and, more importantly, exit at the top. So if a replacement is to be made a slightly longer ladder would appear to be best.

The vertical drop is 5m from the underside of the ceiling to the floor. To obtain the same angled ladder, but slightly longer at the top, this would require 7m of rigid ladder. The current ladders are positioned into a narrow rift at the top that leads to a 27cm rung width. The centres on the rungs are also approximately 27cm. This is an odd size as it is quite narrow. The ladder being in the rift is useful in that it stops the ladders twisting.

Of the two current ladders, one is constructed from angle iron bolted together. There are a few missing rungs and significant corrosion on numerous joints. The second over lain on this is a box section ladder than appears to have inserts inside to enable joints to be made. This prevents the joints being inspected. These two ladders are slightly off-set in terms of their rung spacings. This makes them more awkward to climb.

Currently various bits of rope tie the ladders to each other, to the boulders and to features in the passage above.

OPTIONS

A Do nothing, leave them alone.

B Remove the worst of two and reinforce the remaining one. However the two ladders appear to be mutually supportive and removal of one is likely to lead to collapse of the other.

C Remove both, and replace with rope or create a pull-up route with rope. Installing a fixed line has the problem that the rope cannot be inspected before use. A pull-up route would be a way to solve this but there are none currently in use in the Dales, so the risk of mistakes being made might be quite high. (They are used in the Peak District.)

There are a number of locations where fixed ropes cannot be accessed from above so this is nothing new. Two come to mind: Magic Roundabout, pitch into Skylight Passage in Ireby (although technically this can be via Cripple Creek or AKA), up pitches in Cupcake and numerous ropes across Easegill that are often not inspected prior to use.

D Remove, and replace with a ladder, rigid or flexible sided, hot dipped galvanised or stainless steel.

E Remove ladders and replace with stemples, or other aid to enable climbing of the wall. The wall was examined with this in mind, but the highest section is overhanging meaning it would be excessively strenuous.

B and E are not considered further.

PRO AND CONS OF OPTIONS A, C, D

Option A:

Pros: No cost.

Cons: The ladder could fail with someone on it.

(It is noted that the CNCC didn't install and is not responsible for this or any other ladders.)

Option C:

Pros: Lowest cost of the active options.

Cons: Not inspectable from below, rope would need replacement occasionally.

Option D:

Pros: Familiar and likely very long term.

Cons: Cost and transport to site.

EXPANSION OF OPTION D

Rigid v flexible

Whilst easier to transport to site, a flexible ladder would be strenuous in the lower sections to climb. Movement could cause damage to the ladder, or the ladder could damage the rock over a long time interval. The only real advantage of flexible ladder occurs on the inward journey.

A rigid ladder would be most familiar for many and straightforward in terms of use. In terms of transport 4x sections of 1.75m will enable it to be taken in via Bar Pot and Short Hensley's. These sections are also moveable in terms of weight (~21kg).

Of these two, rigid seems to be the better choice.

Material

The location is mostly dry in cave terms. The site is not in flowing water so galvanised steel ladder would be suitable, but transport may leave the ladder without all its galvanised coating, thus making it more likely to corrode. Cost for both options have been estimated below.

Cost

Estimate based on commercial stainless steel ladders ~£2200.
(purely for an indication of cost)

This is based on cost from ladders.co.uk, although this company are not willing to produce a ladder at the width stated above.

Derbyshire Caver has stated they are happy to make the ladder, at costs likely between commercial and pure material costs (see below).

Cost of materials based on MetalSupermarket prices:

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Stainless steel | ~£1500 |
| Steel | ~£200 |

But steel would then need to be galvanised after construction, cost not included.
Dipping in Bradford at cost to be confirmed

With care and planning, it may be possible to pack the ladders to reduce damage to the coating.

Whilst these ladders are not the responsibility of the CNCC, the Committee is invited to decide whether it wishes to take any action, for the benefit of cavers visiting Far Country.

APPENDIX 3

AGENDA ITEM 8.0

CNCC CONSTITUTION

ME/ JMB
(for approval)

The draft version of the updated Constitution is available on the Meetings page of the CNCC website:

<https://cncc.org.uk/meetings/>

For comparison, the current Constitution is also available on the CNCC website:

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

This paper is a commentary explaining the reasoning behind some of the changes. The general principle followed was that the Constitution should only include the **WHAT** and not the **HOW**. It's about the fundamentals of what we are aiming for, rather than the mechanics of getting there. The detail of HOW is set out in the Manual of Operations.

Although this draft looks quite different from the current version of the Constitution, **many of the changes are merely cosmetic**. For example:

- 35% shorter
- Much clearer and easier to read, with more sub-headings
- Changed to numbering (2.3 instead of 2c, etc)
- Removed descriptive detail and other unnecessary words
- Clarified ambiguities and deleted duplications

More substantial changes include:

- Replacing "wordy" Aims and Objectives with more concise Mission Statement.
- Liberalising the membership application process, by removing the need for advance proposers and seconders.
- Disciplinary powers removed, although clubs can be "expelled" from CNCC.
- Removal of Associate Membership, as no longer needed for access. Current agreements are for BCA members, rather than CNCC clubs.
- New section clarifying the role of Individual Caver Representative.
- Co-opting officers and volunteers (but not ICR) to fill vacancies
- Committee size - removed the "minimum of 10", to avoid being unconstitutional if smaller, but kept additional rounds of voting to aim for 10 as desirable.
- Quorum of 6 has been changed to 50% to reflect differing committee sizes.
- Emergency General Meetings merged into Special General Meetings, which are now quicker and easier to set up.
- Constitution may only be changed at AGM (not SGM)
- Section on Access removed, as the detail belongs in the Manual of Operations.

The draft constitution has been developed by the talented members of the Working Group (although any errors or omissions are the sole responsibility of the Secretary).

APPENDIX 4
AGENDA ITEM 9.0
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

ME/JMB
(for information)

The 2025 AGM will be held on Saturday 22 March at the Village Hall in Clapham.

The main item on the agenda will be the election of a new committee for 2025-26, consisting of up to 14 clubs plus the Individual Caver Representative.

The six CNCC Officer roles are also up for election. Our current Chair, Treasurer and Access Officer have already indicated their intention to stand down, so we definitely need new candidates for these positions.

Of course, anyone is also welcome to stand for the three other roles (Secretary, Conservation Officer and Training Officer), as these are filled annually by an open and democratic election.

This is a great chance for any cavers, from all backgrounds, to bring ideas about how we could better support Northern Caving over the coming year.

The deadline is 25 January

- if there is something you wish to include on the agenda
- if you are an individual who would like to stand for any Officer position
- if your club would like to stand for membership or for a Committee position

The agenda will be published on our website by 8 February.

PLEASE spread the word amongst your club members and fellow cavers.

Tell them that the CNCC team is an extremely friendly and supportive group.

Informal discussions and assistance are always just a phone call or email away.

This is a great opportunity to make a massive difference to Northern Caving.