

**CNCC COMMITTEE MEETING
OFFICER REPORTS**

JANUARY 2026

ELECTED OFFICER REPORTS

Chair
Treasurer
Secretary
Conservation Officer
Training Officer
Access Officer

CO-OPTED OFFICER REPORTS (optional)

Access Co-ordinators
Bowland
Excalibur
Robinsons & Fairy Holes

BCA Council Representative
BCA Conservation & Access Representative
BCA Training & Equipment Representative
BCA Anchors Representative

Anchor Team Co-ordinator
Projects Officer
Individual Caver Representative

PR & Communications
Web Administrator

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

Representation Review	Report included with Officer Reports
Anchor Projects	Appendix 2 in Agenda
Access Agreements	Appendix 3 in Agenda

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No AOB notified to date

CHAIR'S REPORT

(Todd Rye)

I hope all have had a good festive period, and got out to enjoy the good weather over new year either above or below ground.

Becka Lawson has been in touch with me regarding the CaveMaps website, wondering if the CNCC would be willing to host it going forward. It is a resource that many cavers in the north use and having it available alongside our route descriptions and topos would be a wonderful addition. In recent years it has been harder to add new surveys to the CaveMaps site, and while I have a vested interest in this as a surveyor, I would be keen to hear what the Council thinks of the idea.

In December, I hosted a meeting of the Representation Working Group, which is reported in "Other Agenda Items".

TREASURER'S REPORT

(Kath Davis)

Draft Accounts for 2025 have been completed but will need checking over by independent scrutineer. Jill has asked Pat Halliwell to undertake this task.

In summary:

Cash at Bank	£
Start balance 31/12/25	12 518.55
Income	20 408.38
Expenditure	16 465.57
End Balance 31/12/26	16 461.36

The summary of Training Course income and expenditure shows a deficit of £2280.36 This will be put into the BCA Grant Claim. The amount is slightly higher than last year (£1904.97) this is largely accounted for by expenditure on Training kit (£516.30) which is higher than Training kit hire last year (£168.00).

Other expenditure which can be claimed back from BCA (IT/Admin, C&A mileage, meeting mileage) has fallen therefore the total claim this year will be £4991.75 (last year £6572.00).

The grant from YDMT for £2000.00 has added to funds available for Conservation & Access projects. So far £634.23 of this grant has been spent on materials.

The Cash at Bank has increased this year but next year income will be lower since the BCA Grant claim will be less and we had the benefit of the YDMT grant this year.

Apologies that I cannot make it to the meeting on 17th January.

Final Accounts will be completed for the AGM in March when I will stand down as Treasurer as Jill Bolton suggested she would like to take on the role.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

(Jill Bolton)

A fairly quiet couple of months, so there's not much to report. As well as preparing for the AGM, I've been tidying things up, ready to hand over to a successor in March. (I'm not deserting you altogether, and will be standing for election to a different role).

There are couple of changes to our membership. Firstly, after 30 years, Elysium Underground Group has ceased to be a caving club, and will continue purely as a social group. I've invited Alison to continue her involvement with CNCC as an individual. Secondly, you'll be aware of the unfortunate reasons for closing down Ulster Speleological Society & Caving Club, so I'm pleased to report that the replacement club, Combined Caving & Diving Club have applied to join CNCC. Congratulations to Raymond Bell and his colleagues for the way they've dealt with this crisis.

We also have a couple of new club reps to the committee, and welcome Martin McGowan (NPC) and John Helm (CPC). As Pat Halliwell steps down, this is a good opportunity to thank her for supporting northern caving for many years.

Since Aila left the Dales last summer, we have been without a rep to the Youth & Development Working Group. I have contacted CHECC's Training Officer (Kai) to ask if anyone might like to take on this role.

After overhearing the BCA Treasurer discussing the renewal of their insurance policy, I spotted an opportunity to include CNCC's assets in their policy. Andrew Hinde assisted with a list of conservation items, and I prepared a schedule of SRT equipment (with replacement costs). Thanks to Ian Patrick, the latter are now stored securely in the YSS hut at Helwith Bridge. (Bolting materials have not yet been included in the policy).

Over in Lancaster, Jess Tooth has been working to revive the university Caving Club. I've made some suggestions about training up new leaders, and SRT training for beginners. The club would probably appreciate some support from former members, and I know Tom Calpin has already provided a lot of help with trips. I shall pass on details of anyone else who might be willing to assist.

In April, Sheffield University are running a "mini-expedition" in Swaledale, with financial support from the BCA. Matt has been involved with initial discussions, and should be able to provide further details, if you're interested.

Finally, Bradford members spotted a proposal in the November budget to give mayors the power to levy a tourist tax for overnight stays. This may affect club huts, resulting in increased charges and extra paperwork. There is a useful thread on UK caving, with a link to the current consultation:
<https://tinyurl.com/ypp9yad3>

CONSERVATION OFFICER'S REPORT

(Kay Easton)

For conservation projects during the last three months, see the Project Officer's report.

Other activities:

The company applying on behalf of tarmac for an extension to quarrying at Keldheads in Wensleydale have sought to discuss with us the possible impact on Keldheads cave and the karst geology in the area. We have been fortunate to obtaining advice from Professor John Gunn, and he and Andrew Hinde will be meeting the Tarmac representatives for a Zoom meeting on 16 January.

In addition, the planning application has attracted the attention of the Preston under Scar women's group, who are keen to find out more about Keldheads and about caving in general, and Chris Curry has kindly agreed to speak to them at their March meeting, with their fee to be donated to cave rescue.

Andrew Hinde will be giving a talk on cave conservation to the Upper Eden Cumbria Wildlife Trust Support Group in early February.

A list of equipment available for CNCC members to borrow for conservation projects is on the CNCC website: <https://cncc.org.uk/about/>

(It's under the "about" 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.

TRAINING OFFICER / COORDINATOR'S REPORT

(Ian Patrick)

Autumn / Winter Training Programme

The Autumn/Winter training programme has been running smoothly, with all workshops fully subscribed. Some weekends have seen multiple workshops running concurrently, including one weekend where three workshops took place on the same day.

New to Caving Events

We ran another successful "New to Caving" day, introducing people to the sport and offering guidance on what to do next. Another event is scheduled for March, with three spaces already booked. As always, if any club is willing to run one of these events, please contact me, as demand continues to be high.

SpanSet Visit and Rope Donation

Following a conversation with Pete from SpanSet at Hidden Earth, we explored whether SpanSet could support our work and were subsequently invited to visit their factory. Mark Richards and I were given a full tour of both the manufacturing operation and training facilities by Pete Ward. We spent five hours there and enjoyed excellent hospitality (and good coffee).

SpanSet generously donated 350m of new rope for use in CNCC training and offered us access to their high-quality training facilities for running CNCC workshops. In addition, their industry-leading testing facilities may be made available to CNCC for any testing we wish to carry out.

Beyond this practical support, it was clear that SpanSet has a very positive attitude towards cavers and is keen to assist the wider caving community. My personal thanks go to Pete, MD at SpanSet, for his time and generosity.

New CNCC Training Kit Store

Since adopting the current training format in 2020, our SRT training kit has been stored in a small corner of the Yorkshire Dales Guides barn. We are very grateful for this arrangement, which has served us well, and we will continue to store kit there that is specific to workshops run at the barn.

However, over the past five years our team of SRT trainers has grown to five, we now use more venues, and we run more underground workshops where kit can get wet. Drying kit was becoming increasingly problematic, particularly on days when multiple workshops were running at different locations. With our expanding inventory, including the newly donated ropes from SpanSet, a new storage solution was clearly needed.

I approached the YSS to ask whether space might be available at their hut. Initially, we were offered a cabinet in the garage, which would have been tight and not ideal for drying kit, but workable. However before we could set this up, we were “upgraded” to a dedicated area in the cellar where the club stores its own equipment.

As the cellar houses the club boilers and Tesla electric storage batteries, it is warm and dry - ideal for kit storage and drying. After meeting Alan Speight to view the space, I took measurements and devised a plan. A couple of full days’ work on site saw the completion of the new CNCC training kit store.

This new facility will be a huge benefit: it is more centrally located and makes drying and managing kit far easier. Many thanks to Yorkshire Dales Guides for the continued use of their barn, and to the YSS for their very generous offer of cellar space - it makes a real difference to our work.

As always, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all CNCC trainers for their continued support and delivery of high-quality training. Thanks also to other CNCC members who provide invaluable support behind the scenes.

Yockenthwaite Caves / Strans Gill

Firstly, I'd like to report a small but welcome change to the access agreement at Strans Gill Pot.

After a brief discussion with Natural England's (NE) Ranger for the area, it was agreed that cavers could leave a message on their answerphone rather than writing for access, ahead of a visit.

Cavers now wishing to gain landowner consent to visit simply need to call in advance with details of their party size and date so NE can monitor how many people are visiting this cave, which is on an SSSI. Having spoken to the farmer, it was also politely requested that any caver should call at Yockenthwaite Farm on their way to the cave ... although if nobody is around, you are still fine to visit.

This is because the farmer, whilst being very caver friendly, is concerned about sheep theft, and the presence of unknown vehicles after dark, combined with lights on the fell, has been raising alarm. We noted on the website that 'cavers parking in the Yockenthwaite Farm area - particularly cavers with vans - who are entering or exiting in the dark may wish to consider a friendly call/note to the farm just to put their mind at ease'.

One potential issue at Strans Gill, although I haven't checked this for myself, is that the entrance has reportedly been blocked by fencing wire and posts as a measure to prevent livestock from falling in. The Ranger at NE noted this was the case early last year and wasn't aware of any access requests that could confirm whether that was true or not. It would be great if someone could confirm this to me, but it does sound as if the cave hasn't been visited for a long time.

Skirwith Cave

The new access agreement at Skirwith - emailing access@cncc.org.uk - is working well, with no reported issues from the landowner and only one request for access since the agreement was altered.

Whitewell

Sadly, I am unable to provide a thorough update on access to Whitewell, but at the time of writing, I do have a meeting pencilled in with my contact at the Duchy for later this month. Pleasingly, he has noted that he is more than happy to revisit the access for the caves, but admitted that he didn't know a great deal about them. Hopefully, I will have an update before we meet in Clapham.

Gatekirk Caves (Bruntskar area)

Whilst not being easily accessible (not on PROW etc), the farmer reports that he does see the odd caver visiting the site. He remains happy with existing access arrangements but asks that cavers phone ahead (so he doesn't get a surprise), still approach via the riverbed and do not climb over walls.

Yorkshire Dales Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group

I attended this meeting on behalf of the CNCC in November and updated the group on the latest access agreements, including Skirwith and others. Minutes of the meeting haven't been produced yet to my knowledge, so I will update discussions at a future CNCC meeting.

Point of Note

I note on the agenda Tim's point about access agreements and how / if / when the CNCC should accept them. I want to make it clear that any access agreements I am working on will be for the benefit of cavers. Naturally, having a day role that involves meeting landowners often means striking a balance; I will always aim to find an agreement we are all happy with. I do agree with Tim that we shouldn't be accepting a backstep in agreements where possible, and the two I have 'negotiated' at Yockenthwaite and Skirwith are testament to that. The new Scoska Cave agreement is a different issue and, in my view, shouldn't be looked at in the same way as the two successes I feel I have provided.

That said, as noted above, I am acutely aware that having a good working relationship with landowners is ultimately beneficial for long-term access, but I will always aim to strike an agreement that best suits cavers. If, after discussion, the CNCC committee agree with this stance - effectively me trying to find balance in chaos at times - then I will stand for election as Access Officer in March. Regardless of this, I will stand by the decision of the committee who have the best interests of caves and cavers in heart.

ACCESS CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS

Bowland

(Tony Brown)

Meeting arranged with Duchy of Lancaster by Assistant Access Officer.

Excalibur

(Matt Ewles)

Demand for access to Excalibur Pot remains low/non-existent, no issues to report.

Robinsons & Fairy Holes

(Dinny Davies)

We have a few bookings so far for 2026. All are reminded that plenty of dates remain available for these two fine caves. I'm happy to stand as co-ordinator again this year, though if anyone else would like the role, they will have my full support.

BCA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

(Todd Rye)

Nothing major to report from the last council meeting that hasn't already been brought up. The next council meeting is the Tuesday following this CNCC meeting.

BCA CONSERVATION & ACCESS REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

(Mike Appleton)

The next Working Group meeting is scheduled for January 21. Minutes and Terms of Reference are on the BCA website:
<https://british-caving.org.uk/about-bca/working-groups/conservation-access/>

BCA TRAINING & EQUIPMENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

(Mark Richards)

Main points from meeting in December 2025:

This was the second meeting of the group being steered by Aidan Kuhlman (BCA secretary) in the interim whilst a new group convener is being looked into. This report has a focus on Equipment as Ian Patrick covers the training aspect of this group for CNCC.

On behalf of the CNCC thanks must go to Steve Grey for all his work and contribution as previous convener of the group.

UIAA Update on Failed Canyoning Harnesses

The UIAA have issued a safety Alert regarding the failed and extremely weak canyoning harnesses that failed between July 2017 and December 2018. Their update can be found here:
<https://www.theuiaa.org/uiaa-safety-alert-canyoning-harnesses/>

The main summary of the failures is that they were caused by excessive wear combined by UV damage, while additionally being constantly kept in a moist state. It is implied that the near constant presence of water was a contributing factor to the failed harnesses' excessive weakness. Nevertheless, excessive wear and UV damage are the main contributing factors.

Petzl Update on belaying with a Micro traxion

Petzl have issued a warning about belaying on a Micro traxion
<https://www.petzl.com/US/en/Sport/Belaying-the-second-with-a-MICRO-TRAXION--beware-of-any-fall?ProductName=MICRO-TRAXION>

Awareness of the pulley / jammer combination issue

As reported by BCA in 2019
<https://british-caving.org.uk/our-work/safety/>

BCA ANCHOR REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

The BCA recently set up a separate Anchors Working Group, led by Pete Knight from Derbyshire. Minutes and Terms of Reference are on the BCA website:
<https://british-caving.org.uk/about-bca/working-groups/anchors/>

ANCHOR CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

(Ian Walker)

Report not yet received

PROJECT OFFICER REPORT

(Andrew Hinde)

Since the last meeting there have been three conservation projects completed with funding from Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

1 Fencing repairs at Long Churn (2 volunteer days work)

Replacement of rotten fence posts and tensioning of external fencing wire.
Replacement of internal fencing to protect instructed group members (or anyone else) from falling into the eye hole.

2 Pasture Gill Pot fence replacement (Approx 12 volunteer days work)

Replacement of perimeter fence to make cattle and sheep proof stock fence with timber rails and sheep netting. Work undertaken by Craven Pothole Club volunteers led by John Helm.

3 Sweetwater Hole fence replacement (2 volunteer days work)

Replacement of sheep netting fence with timber post and rail fence to accommodate cattle grazing on the site.

Just under half of the YDMT budget of £2000 has been spent so far.

The next project will be replacement of rotten boardwalk bridges at Ireby Cavern footpath. These were originally installed by CNCC volunteers in 2009.

INDIVIDUAL CAVER REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

(Tim Allen)

I attended the Cave and Crag Access Group meeting (on Teams). This is a sub group of the Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum, a statutory body established under the CRoW Act to deal with access issues. Present were National Park staff, representatives from the BMC, Mike Appleton and myself. The group had not met for over a year. Generally, the climbers look at the closure of certain crags for the bird nesting seasons and any other problems of access to climbing areas. In addition we usually comment on any problems with bats and caves but none were noted.

On the agenda was a potential problem with a dig in West Kingsdale (Turbury Road area). From comments Mike had encountered with the Hanleys, it was thought to be North End Pot and I assured the group that both the new entrance and original entrance were in good stock-proof condition. However, it turned out from later information from Alan Speight's Christmas visit to the farm that it was a different dig that was causing concern for stock. I put the word out amongst local diggers and apparently the culprit has been identified, and agreed to make it more stock-proof. However, I am yet to visit the farm to check on this as I have promised to do.

I briefed the group on the recent developments for the caving under CRoW campaign highlighting the Supreme Court Judgement parallels in the Dartmoor case. The new APPG on outdoor recreation was mentioned and I was able to inform the group that both CNCC and BCA had responded to the call for evidence.

The issue at Scoska Cave was also mentioned in terms of the new landowner's position on access. This has changed from decades of problem-free open access to the restrictive terms the landowner now demands.

I understand that when the full Yorkshire Dales LAF met a few weeks later, some of the issues we raised were brought up. By co-incidence the tenant farmer for Scoska area is a member of the LAF and apparently he has no gripe with cavers at all. There is certainly something to follow up here.

The dramatic changes in access at Scoska, and some of the more restrictive access conditions CNCC promote do cause me concern on a number of fronts. These have not necessarily been negotiated by CNCC and do not achieve a consensus between Landowner and caver. It is dangerous to return to the days of appeasing landowners and promoting draconian access restrictions on their terms. If landowners see we are willing to communicate these conditions through our networks then what is to deter them from negotiating better conditions? Those who fall foul of restrictions the most tend to be the individual or independent caver therefore I have proposed a separate agenda item to discuss this further.

I attended the representation group meeting organised by the chair. In advance of that I gave the issue careful consideration and spoke with a number of others. The proposals do seem to address the issue of representation with the least impact on current CNCC operations.

The BCA has now formally established a National Access Working Group (from the old CRoW WG). I was unable to attend the first meeting but some good work has been done by Dave Rose. Dave has made further representation to the APPG on Outdoor Recreation and they are fully aware of the cavers issue. CNCC had previously answered the call for evidence of this group.

My main focus since the October meeting was the December newsletter. I'd like to thank several of our fellow officers and volunteers who came up with the goods and provided me with some excellent articles, beyond those already circulated on our website and social media. With our newsletter being mostly a compilation of already-published material, it is nice to have some unique content too.

The productive conversation with Pete Ward from SpanSet at Hidden Earth has evolved into an offer from SpanSet to support CNCC through a generous rope donation, as well as use of their excellent training and testing facilities. I'll leave this to the training team to decide how best to take advantage of this offer. This gave me a dilemma as PR/Comms Officer. The CNCC will not be including advertising on our website, and our news will never become blatant adverts. However, despite no requests for anything in return being made, I believe that such generous sponsorship from SpanSet deserved recognition. I chose to take a 'soft' recognition approach, including publishing a photo of the rope handover, and sharing the story of their support - with our thanks - via all our usual platforms. I will welcome feedback if anyone feels I misjudged this.

Following a trip into Devis Hole in December, I was inspired to write a route description for our website, and I am very grateful to Tony Harrison and Chris Curry for their input and for use of the MSG surveys. Tony even went on to recommend and write a description for Danby Level Caverns, which Chris peer reviewed. Now that CNCC descriptions have become a primary go-to and also a source of trip inspiration for many cavers (in the way that Selected Caves was for me 20 years ago), I hope to start including descriptions for more caves outside of the Three Peaks/Three Counties region to encourage people to explore further afield.

Our mailing list stands at 856 subscribers (as of 2 January). This number has mostly plateaued, typically only increasing by a handful of people each month. I send roughly monthly updates to our mailing list on relevance CNCC and northern caving news, and they always get first-notice of new training workshops.

Please keep me informed about any work done under the CNCC name or of relevance to any of CNCC's core functions (conservation, training, access, safety, anchors, equipment and generally supporting northern cavers) – no matter how small or irrelevant you may feel this is, or if it is part of a work-in-progress project.

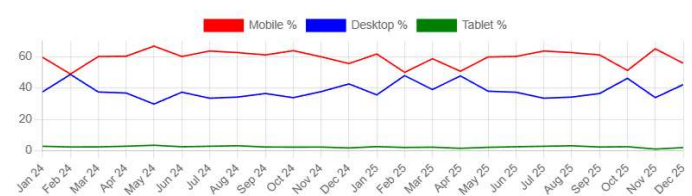
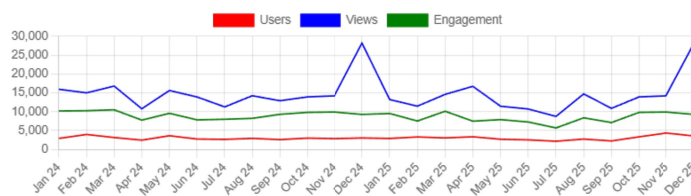
Issue resolved	The cave map has been restored. Originally using Bing maps however, they have withdrawn the free tier of API access. Set up again using Google maps.
Functionality improved	Ability to download anchor reports to a CSV file added to the anchors website.
Functionality improved	Secretary Microsoft 365 account has been upgraded to allow additional data storage as well as the use of Teams to replace Zoom at meetings.
Functionality improved	Website data is now automatically backed up to the new Microsoft storage on the secretary account to ensure data is always available in the event of a system failure.

Analytics

Site visitors

Note there was an error on the last three months of my previous report. Corrected here. Engagement now also included.

	Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25	Apr 25	May 25	Jun 25	Jul 25	Aug 25	Sep 25	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25
Users	2,921	3,315	3,067	3,362	2,712	2,540	2,178	2,759	2,250	3,355	4,361	3,567
Views	13,234	11,481	14,605	16,742	11,465	10,723	8,764	14,730	10,896	13,940	14,219	28,205
Eng.	9,533	7,539	10,132	7,501	7,912	7,281	5,706	8,390	7,133	9,834	9,923	9,292



Social Media

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

Facebook – 2102 followers
 28200 content views (+111%)
 446 content interactions (+66%)
 1000 page visits (+65%)
 43 new followers (+258%)

Age & gender

Top towns/cities

- Bradford: 1.9%
- Carnforth: 1.6%
- Kendal: 1.4%
- Sheffield: 1.4%
- Lancaster: 1.3%
- Phnom Penh, Cambodia: 1.1%
- Leeds: 1%
- Settle: 1%
- Skipton: 1%
- Harrogate: 0.8%

Top countries

- United Kingdom: 76.9%
- United States: 3.9%
- Cambodia: 1.8%
- Ireland: 1.4%
- Australia: 1.3%
- Spain: 1.3%
- Italy: 1.2%
- Thailand: 1%
- France: 0.7%
- Portugal: 0.6%

Instagram – 689 followers
 4000 content views (+7%)
 177 content interactions (+20%)
 78 profile visits (+17%)
 39 new followers (+77%)

Age & gender

Top towns/cities

- Cardiff: 2.5%
- Manchester: 2%
- Lancaster: 1.6%
- Leeds: 1.5%
- London: 1.3%
- Bradford: 1.3%
- Kendal: 1.2%
- Penrith: 1.2%
- York: 1.2%
- Glasgow: 1.2%

Top countries

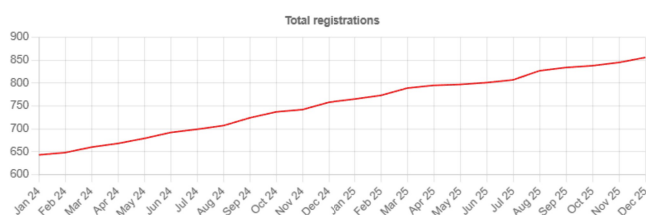
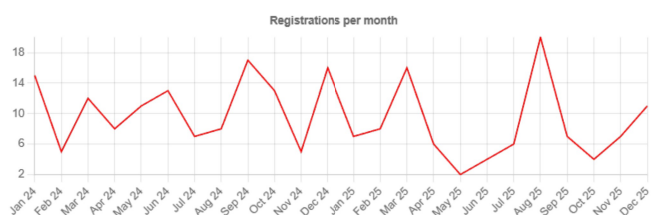
- United Kingdom: 67.2%
- Italy: 6.5%
- Brazil: 4.6%
- Spain: 2.6%
- United States: 1.9%
- Iran: 1.5%
- Russia: 1%
- France: 1%
- Romania: 0.9%
- Germany: 0.9%

Social media followers comparison:

	CNCC	DCA	CSCC	CCC	DCUC	BCA	UK Caving
Facebook	2067 (+35)	883	719	--	--	3400	4400
Instagram	689 (+24)	--	--	--	--	--	1054
Bluesky	40 (+3)	--	--	--	--	--	--
X	548 (-2)	564	--	--	--	241	--
Threads	79 (+4)	--	--	--	--	--	--
YouTube	25 (+0)	--	--	--	--	--	--

Mailing List

- The mailing list contains **857** people (**19** have requested to be unsubscribed).



Online Booking System

- 1409 registered users
- 7249 individual bookings have been made. This number includes 6374 approved bookings and 874 cancelled bookings.
- 320 (23%) made a positive statement that they are NOT BCA members.
- 963 (68%) said they are members of a club.
- Of the users who specified gender there are 252 female (18.6%), 1007 male (74.2%) and 5 other (0.4%).
- The average age is 51 with the youngest 18 and oldest 85.



Media Downloads

	Topos	Descriptions	Publications
Dec 2025	3341	3498	1239
Nov 2025	3547	3743	733
Oct 2025	3266	3541	814
12 Month Average	2889	2798	929



Top media downloads (last 3 months)

Topos	Descriptions	Publications
350 - Lost Johns' Cave	566 - The Leck Fell Master Cave System	508 - CNCC Newsletter Issue 18 - December 2025
287 - Sell Gill Holes	524 - Ease Gill Caverns	243 - Shuttleworth Pot (Witches Cave) Conservation Guide
287 - Alum Pot	421 - Gaping Gill	187 - Great Douk Cave - A Guide to Hidden Gems
253 - Jangling Pot	294 - Alum Pot and Long Churn Caves	130 - CNCC Newsletter Issue 17 - June 2025
245 - Bar Pot / Small Mammal / Flood Entrance	222 - Little Hull Pot	112 - New to Caving Leaflet

REPRESENTATION REVIEW

(Todd Rye)

In December, I hosted a meeting of the Representation Working Group with Tim Allen and Sam Lieberman in attendance. It was decided that while we feel it unlikely that there will be dramatic change to the council overnight, a mechanism should be in place to allow other organisations to have a vote on the council. We generally accepted that the caving clubs would still represent a good majority of active cavers in the north.

There were two options for this that we decided would be the most sensible and practical, allowing most of the running of the CNCC to remain largely unchanged.

1) Elected officers are allowed to vote. This would give other groups a way to get a vote, by having someone run for an elected role.

2) We have a number (5 was suggested at the meeting) of council voting positions reserved for non clubs, that can be voted in at the AGM. These would be positions that do NOT need to be filled, however if a group or organisation would like to have a representative, then there is an opportunity to do this.

Both of these would require a change to the constitution, but once the wording is in place, there is little more that would change than counting a few more hands at meetings.