

CNCC

ANNUAL REPORT

1999



COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

**The Annual General meeting will be held on 27 March 1999 at 10am.
at the Hellifield Village Institute, Main Road, Hellifield**

AGENDA

- 1: Apologies for absence.**
- 2: Minutes of the last meeting, (taken as read if previously circulated).**
- 3: Matters arising from the minutes.**
- 4: Officers reports:**
 - Chairman
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Access and conservation officer
 - Legal representative
 - Training Officer
- 5: Meets secretaries reports:**
 - Leck Fell
 - Casterton Fell
 - Birks fell/mongo Gill
 - Penyghent, Gingling, Hammer
 - Other areas
- 6: Applications for membership.**
- 7: Applications for full member status.**
- 8: Constitutional amendments. (see over page)**
- 9: N.C.A. Reports. Equipment report, Training report, Re-structuring**
- 10: Election of officers and committee. (see over page)**
- 11: Any other business.**
- 12: Date and place of next meeting.**

NOTE:

All officers who are required to give a report, are requested to prepare a written report. Please supply at least one copy, this should be handed to the assistant secretary at the meeting.

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Item 8: constitutional amendments

None received

Item 10: Election of officers and committee

Chairman:

Treasurer:

Secretary:

Assistant secretary:

Access & Conservation officer:

Assistant Conservation Officer:

Training Officer:

(R. Myers) Geoff Barber ✓
G. Jones, prepared to stand again ✓
L. Sykes, prepared to stand again ✓
R. Cook, prepared to stand again ✓
J. Harland ✓
A. Bolton * D. Kestell
P. Ramsden ✓

Current Committee:

Bradford Pothole Club

Burnley Caving Club

Dent House Speleological Society

~~Porkey Potters Caving Club~~ *Crawley P.C.*

Orcus Caving Group

Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club

Yorkshire Ramblers Club

Lancashire Underground Group

Verbal nomination from Pendle Caving Club nominating D. Kestell for assistant conservation officer, seconded Lancashire Underground Group

Notice first issued on 05/02/1999

Second issue on 00/00/00

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

MINUTES OF THE CNCC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 27 MARCH 1999 AT HELLIFIELD VILLAGE INSTITUTE

The Meeting commenced at 10-15 am.

The proceedings were recorded on tape for the first time. (it should be noted that the clarity on this first occasion was poor)

1. PRESENT: Ron Cook (Assistant Secretary/PCC), Russel Myers (Chairman/CPC), Les Sykes (Secretary/YSS/Technical Group/LUG), Pete Allwright (DHSS), Royanne Wilding (OCG), Roy Holmes (CRO/DHSS), David Leonard (ANT), Jim Sloane (Meets Secretary/LUG), P. Ramsden (FA/NCA), Janet Harland (Conservation/ACC), David Kestell (PCC), Bob Mehew (NCA Treasurer), Geoff Barber (PP), Peter Wilson (BCC), Malcolm Hughes (WVPC), Bernard Bond (BCC), Ian Lloyd (BPC), Glenn Jones (Treasurer/Technical Group/WSG)

2. APOLOGIES: Grosvenor CC, Bill Quinton, Gagendor CC, Stuart Marshall, Ric Halliwell.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

Approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES:

PR asked why the minutes were posted immediately prior to the following meeting. LS to ensure that delegates have copies available for the meeting. PR asked about the £4000 offered to NCA for cave register. LS advised that it was a project that Graham Price was dealing with.

5. CHAIRMANS REPORT:

No written report.

RM advised that he was standing down as Chairman. Thanked all the Officers for their support over the years. RM advised that he was pleased to announce that the Casterton Agreement was accepted by Bowring and was to be signed up in the near future.

RM offered his services on the ordinary committee and would like to continue his interest with the Casterton Fell situation.

LS proposed a vote of thanks for his contribution which was unanimously agreed by the meeting. Geoff Barber has indicated his willingness to stand for Chairman.

SECRETARYS REPORT:

Written report presented. LS felt that the BCRA insurance should be continued by the CNCC to ensure that its activities are covered. LS asked PR if the Training Panel had a list of qualified persons. PR replied that the list was held by Tony Flanagan.

LS advised that the subscription for the Federation of Yorkshire Sports was now due. GJ asked what advantage was the membership. LS advised that through it the CNCC was noted as the representative body for the North. The meeting approved the continuing subscription.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Written report presented. The accounts have been satisfactorily audited by Airdale CC.

RH asked if the NCA finance bolting. GJ advised that the bolting is financed and run by the CNCC.

LS advised that finance was recovered from NCA for bolting training. Only thing not shown on the account was clubs paying through the CNCC to NCA.

The telephone bill at Bull Pot farm will be split 3 ways in future RRCPC/CRO/CNCC.

GJ suggested an increase in subscription to the CNCC for year 2000 to £15 /annum. RW asked why such an increase. GJ advised that it was needed to maintain current account. LS advised that additional expenditure would also be entailed with the new Casterton Fell agreement.

YSS proposed the £15 subscription, ANT seconded. Unanimous vote in favour.

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

ACCESS AND CONSERVATION OFFICER:

Written report presented. A Graham Mullard had reported an access problem with Dow Cave, which appears strange as most of the route is a public footpath and also reported was a collapse barring the Dowbergill through route. Further investigation required on both counts.

The NCA Minimal Impact Code and the Caving Ethics is to be included in the next committee meeting.

The new arrangements for Knock Fell will be included in the Handbook revisions.

TRAINING OFFICERS REPORT:

Written report presented.

PR pointed out that KCC have benefitted twice from the training fund. Funding would only be available to NCA paid up members.

PR reiterated that it was dangerous for persons to be left hanging in a harness for even 6-7 minutes.

GJ proposed that a CNCC training event be held. NCA funding should be available. GJ/PR to co-ordinate.

6. MEETS SECRETARYS REPORTS:

Leck Fell:

Written report presented. JS advises that negotiations are ongoing with Lord Shuttleworth for improved access.

Casteton Fell:

New agreement accepted, to be signed up as soon as a meeting could be arranged.

Copies of the agreement were presented.

5 permits /day@ weekend, 2/day weekdays

Officially the Black Route will be NO ACCESS. H. Bowring is particularly concerned about wear and tear from the gate to Lancaster Hole on the new route.

The new permit will be administered by the CNCC and not RRCPC.

All aspects will be published in the caving press. Thomas Bowring would also like to publish an article. RM will provide the report for the press.

IL will not begin to arrange work to be done on the proposed route until the agreement was actually signed.

Birks Fell:

Written report submitted.

Penyghent and Fountains Fell:

Written report submitted.

Other Areas:

None.

7. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Toby CC, Accepted.

Hampshire Scout Caving Group, Accepted.

8. APPLICATION FOR FULL MEMBER STATUS:

Verbal application from Rubber Duck Caving Club.

Not accepted, generally seen as a Derbyshire Club.

9. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS:

None.

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

10. NCA REPORTS:

NCA Equipment report submitted.

AGM and Council Report presented by GJ

GJ asked for the following to be minuted.

Jenny Potts (DCA) has reported some confusion amongst DCA member clubs who are also CNCC member clubs in that they are apparently not aware of CNCCs stance on the collection of NCA subs. I would therefore like it minuted that any CNCC member club can pay its NCA subscription via the CNCC Treasurer, as has always been the case.

RH said that the NCA claimed to provide an umbrella organisation including access and rescue when it was done at regional and club level. LS said that CNCC was a member of the NCA therefore it could be construed as correct.

LS said that the NCA were likely to increase subs. to £20. Only 180 out of the 350 or so clubs had paid subscription.

JH circulated an e-mail which expressed concerns over NCA activity. GB voiced support for the views.

IL expressed concerns over NCA activity and proposed circulating a discussion document.

LS said changes to the NCA could only be made from within. Clubs should get involved and vote.

11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Chairman	Geoff. Barber
Treasurer	Glenn. Jones
Secretary	Les. Sykes
Assistant Secretary	Ron. Cook
Access & Conservation Officer	Janet. Harland
Asst. Conservation Officer	David. Kestell
Training Officer	Paul. Ramsden

Current Committee:

Bradford Pothole Club
Burnley Caving Club
Dent House Speliological Society
Orcas Caving Group
Craven Pothole Club
Red Rose Cave & Pothole Club
Yorkshire Ramblers Club
Lancashire Underground Group

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

13. DATE AND PLACE OF MEETINGS:

Village Institute Hellifield.

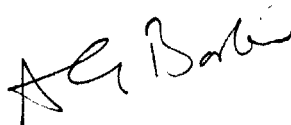
Committee - Friday 2 July 1999 @ 8-00 pm

Committee - Friday 17 September 1999 @ 8-00 pm

Committee - Friday 17 December 1999 @ 8-00 pm

Annual General Meeting - Saturday 4 March 2000 @ 10-30am

Meeting closed @ 1-50pm.



COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

L. Sykes
49 Manfield
Ashurst
Skelmersdale
Lancashire
WN8 6SU

Tel/Fax: 01695 728673
E.mail: lsykes@globalnet.co.uk
24/03/99

SECRETARIES REPORT TO THE CNCC AGM

Another busy year has passed, although last year my work burden has been reduced by shedding quite a bit of the time consuming work to Ron (assistant secretary), who I believe still has unpaid help at home, who he can bribe with pocket money increases. Nevertheless, the amount of time required to enable a regional council to function effectively and meet it's commitments to it's member clubs is considerable, and that can only be achieved by a dedicated team of officers and committee members.

Once again the year was dominated by the NCA Both Glenn (for CNCC) and myself (for LUG) attended most, if not all the meetings. I am not going to dwell on the subject as both Glenn and I have kept you fully informed of developments throughout the year. All that remains is for the implications of the NCA AGM to be discussed and Glenn has prepared a report for that.

Landowners liability insurance, during 1998 the CNCC took out policies to protect landowners whom we administer access for, Leck Fell Estate & The Estate of Gordan Hanley that appertains to the access agreement. Other agreements will be covered as and when there is a requirement.

We always assumed that as a regional body and constituent of NCA we had, by right, insurance cover from BCRA, in fact I even gave a copy of the cover to Bruce Henry when he acted as our legal advisor. However, it appeared this year that such cover did not exist, or, we were led to believe that this was the case. CNCC and the other regional councils are now required to pay an annual premium to BCRA for the cover that we thought we got for free. This insurance cover, covers CNCC officers and those who work on behalf of the committee. It may be worth noting that this is the same level of cover and the same policy that BCRA gives it members. Therefore, if every committee members' club, is a member of BCRA we would not need to pay again.
Policy N^o. UCPOP1011779

The CNCC photocopier that was purchased during 1996 is now out of service contract by Xerox. I have made enquiries to try and negotiate service contracts, but to date these have proved fruitless. We have two choices, we carry on with this machine and when it breaks down we pay to have it repaired, or we part exchange it for a


new/reconditioned machine. At present it is functioning okay, my personal view is to keep it running until it gives up, and pay any maintenance charge as and when it fails.

I have had a request from the NCA training co-ordinator for a representative from the LCML local panel to attend CNCC meetings. Having seen the nonsense and amount of letter writing involved in the recent Devonshire mine incident in Derbyshire, I think that it is imperative that access arrangements and discussions at CNCC meeting be communicated to all involved in regional caving. It has also been suggested to me that maybe the north should set up a PICA (Peak Instructed Caving Association) type organisation for the north. Obviously this is the forum for discussing such developments, and I seek the views of the committee and members present.

The sales of rigging guides and cards still continues with new systems being added to the list of cards available. Rigging guide N^o. 3 is now progressing rapidly as I find myself some what confined to the chair.

Due to the continuing confusion regarding access arrangements I have placed an article in the next copy of Descent which briefly outlines where permits are required and where to find the information for accessing the permit system etc.

Over the recent years the necessity for accurate recording of CNCC meetings has become apparent. Our laid back attitude has caught us out once too often at NCA meetings and at other regions meetings. Therefore, the CNCC has purchased a recording machine so that the meetings can be recorded for the person compiling the minutes, and an accurate record of the meeting maintained.



Les Sykes
CNCC Secretary

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

AGM - 27th MARCH 1999

TREASURERS REPORT

ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

Following the increased cost for last years accountant's report, and the warning that the cost could double for this year, it has been agreed by the committee that the CNCC's accounts should be verified by a volunteer CNCC member club. Airedale CC have volunteered for the 1999 AGM and the attached letter from Airedale verifies this report as accurate. The process is a little different from that of an auditors report, in that it verifies, by scrutinisation of bank statements, invoices, receipts and working spreadsheet (Quicken) that this report for the 1998 financial year is correct. It is hoped that this approach is acceptable to the committee and is suggested that this method is continued for future AGMs.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

CURRENT ACCOUNT:

Balance c/f from 1997		£392.17
Income 1998	£2555.52	
Expenditure 1998	£2867.40	
Interest received	£6.11	
Interest paid	£0.33	
Balance c/f to 1999		£86.07

HIGH INTEREST ACCOUNT:

Balance 31 st December 1997		£5,156.66
Transfer to current account (RRCPC 'phone bill)	£454.91	
Interest received	£208.41	
Balance 31 st December 1998		£4,910.16

EXPENDITURE to the year end 31st December:

Secretarial Expenses:	
Postage, 'phone calls etc.	£427.68
Subscriptions:	
NCA, Fed York Sports	£52.50
1997 Audit:	
J Greenall & Co.	£176.25
French CRO books:	
All expenditure recovered	£75.90
Meetings:	
Room hire, coffee	£73.00
Stationary:	
Paper, files, toner, laminator etc.	£947.30
Bolting Project:	
Resin, anchors	£427.71
Access:	
Various projects.	£218.15
BCRA:	
Insurance.	£14.00
Red Rose C&PC:	
Phone bill.	£454.91
	£2867.40

INCOME to year end 31st December:

Bolting Project:	
Sale of rigging guides, resin, training etc.	£734.61
Sale of French Rescue Books:	£75.00
CNCC:	
Handbooks.	£21.00
From High Interest Acc:	
Red Rose C&PC phone bill	£454.91
Subscriptions:	£1270.00
	£2555.52

The RE-BOLT PROGRAM

The cost of the re-bolt program for 1998 was: £427.71

The above expenditure was offset by income generated from the Rigging Guide and the onward sale of resin and anchors and training. £734.61

ASSETS

ITEM	COST/VALUE(£)	YEAR PURCHASED
1 Laminator	£119.79	1998
1 Scanner	£149.99	1997
4 Tackle bags	£45.00	1977
4 tackle bags	£45.00	1966
Storage box	£10.00	1966
6 Karabiners	£30.00	1966
30 Petzl hangers	£35.00	1966
30 7mm Maillons	£45.00	1966
22m 10.5mm rope	£20.00	1966
260Th 10mm Marlow rope	£260.00	1966
Xerox 5309 photocopier	£916.46	1966
2 X 24v ni-cad dry cells & charger	£141.00	1995
1 X Exchem resin applicator	£40.00	1995
1 X Rexel CB3000 binding machine	£129.24	1995
3 X Hilti 10mm drill bits	£30.00	90/92/94
2 X Yuasa 1/a batteries	£22.00	1993
2 X Putsy pumps	£12.00	1990/93
2 X 2 Yuasa 1/a batteries (in ammo boxes)	£52.00	1990/91
2 X Hilti resin applicators	£60.00	1990

REVIEW OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 1994, '95, '96, '97, '98

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Income:	£3,681.55	£3,119.30	£4,134.32	£3,510.54	£2,555.52
Expenditure:	£2,834.04	£3,177.16	£4,640.62	£3,873.31	£2,867.40
Current Acc:	£624.38	£547.34	£1,041.61	£392.17	£86.07
High Int Acc:	£6,379.74	£5,784.35	£5,012.12	£5,156.66	£4,910.16

Analysis of CNCC's overall operating costs, over the last 5 years, show a steady trend in that income is not adequately covering expenditure. The healthy surplus shown in 1994 (£624.38) together with transfers from the High Interest account (for specific large expenditure) has buffered the imbalance. However, costs continue to rise and I therefore recommend that CNCC subscriptions are increased to £15.00 per club from 1st January 2000. To my knowledge, this is the first increase in CNCC subscriptions in nearly 15 years.

I am prepared to stand as Treasurer for the next 12 months.

Glenn Jones

CNCC Treasurer

AIREDALE CAVING CLUB

Aff. C. N. C. C. Est. 1964

Chairman G. Wilkinson Sec. ~~K. Butterworth~~ Treas. M. Rhodes

J Harland

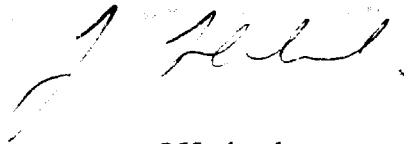
15 Yealand Avenue
Giggleswick
North Yorkshire
BD24 0AY
8th March 1999

Dear Glenn,

The Council of Northern Caving Clubs Accounts 1998 have been checked and validated by Airedale Caving Club.

The audit included both the current and high interest account opening and closing balances for the year, invoices and receipts.

Yours faithfully,



J Harland
Sec. Airedale Caving Club

REPORT OF TRAINING OFFICER TO CNCC AGM 27th MARCH 1999

- 1 With reference to my report in the minutes of 1998 AGM:
 - a) My understanding of a “relatively simple error” eg abseiling off the end of a rope because there was no knot in the end may be completely wrong, but what kind of evidence is necessary before making such an assumption? What may be the case is human error – perhaps where someone knows what to do but forgets ----I don’t know exactly what happened in Yordas!
 - b) For NCA funding for Club trainers, contact Tony Flanagan (NCA Training Co-ordinator) on 015242 – 41737. It does not involve complex admin procedures as mentioned in 1998 AGM Minutes. See Speleoscene No 37, March 1999 for training update.
- 2 In the Dec ’98 Newsletter under CNCC Training – there was a mini questionnaire repeated below – I only received one reply
 - a) Is training offered to club members?
 - b) How do you decide if training is necessary?
 - c) How do you deal with your beginners?
 - d) How do you decide if your members are competent?
- 3 I would still like to arrange a CNCC Training event later in the year as I suspect it will have takers if organised! Please let me have your ideas.
- 4 As usual, Speleoscene covers much of what I might report
 - a) It mentions a proposal for Adventure Activities Licensing being extended as an optional certificate for providers of activities for adults – (eg, for marketing). The CCPR are opposed to this as in the worst case it may be that access is restricted by landowners pressured by insurance companies. Traditionally NCA has maintained that its qualifications are only relevant to those taking responsibility for others, rather than club cavers. Write to the NCA Chairman or Training Officer if you wish to comment.
 - b) There is a picture of ladder rigging –described as “a complicated way of committing suicide” – I suggest it is more important to use 2 shared anchors for a lifeline. A ladder is unlikely to take a significant load, so 1 anchor is OK – you could use 2 anchors to stop it twisting and you can easily interlink the whole lot with a short rope if you feel the need. I have recently had people say “I wish I knew how to rig pitches, pull thro’s, etc” – scope for a training event?
- 5 The minimal impact caving Code and Code of Ethics have been circulated. My main objection is that the NCA Training Committee has not been consulted before it was published.
- 6 I am prepared to stand as Training Officer again, if elected..

Paul Ramsden 18/03/99

Sun Lea, Joss Lane, Sedbergh, Cumbria, LA10 5AS

Fax/Tel: 015396 – 20828 (best after 7.30pm)

email – cavertraining@jossilane.freemove.co.uk

Leck Fell 1998/1999
Report to CNCC AGM 27/03/99

A.1998.

Over the past twelve months there has been a total post bag of 94 letters from member clubs in connection with applications to go caving on Leck Fell. The applications themselves have covered 1998, 1999 and some for 2000.

As for 1998, 57 member clubs of the CNCC were granted a total of 194 permits. This was 10 less than the previous twelve months. The relevant details for both 1997 and 1998 are displayed graphically in the attached charts. It is not considered that any particularly unusual trends revealed in the figures for 1998. While fewer permits were issued during 1998, than 1997, the figure of 194 is the same for numbers of permits issued during 1996. The figure of 57 clubs issued with permits is lower than the previous two years. The number for 1996 was 63 clubs, and for 1997, 64.

Of the clubs who wrote for permits, 11 did so without having paid subs, which is an increase of nine on the previous twelve months. Clubs applying for permits are asked to check before writing, that CNCC subs have been paid for the year they are requesting permits. This will help to cut down greatly on wasted correspondence, stamps and frustration generally.

The average number of 'weekend' permits issued per club during 1998 was approximately three. This is similar for both 1997 and 1996.

About 14 clubs wrote asking for permits on days that were already booked up or closed season. In all cases an offer was made to allocate alternatives. Of these it was possible to sort out all but two, who had been specifically asking for dates during the closed season.

B.1999.

During the current year 125 permits have been thus far issued to 41 member clubs. Of the 156 'weekend' permits possible, 31 remain unbooked. At the AGM last year only 19 'weekend' permits remained to be issued for the rest of 1998, so the current situation appears to be something of an improvement.

C. Access Agreement.

During November last year a meeting was held with Lord Shuttleworth, with the aim of securing improved access arrangements. We are currently limited to issuing two permits per day (excepting the closed season) which is not felt to be sufficient. There is relatively little demand for access during the week, and at weekends, far and above the demand for access than we could hope to satisfy from just four permits. With 50% or thereabouts of caver traffic bound for Lost Johns or Short Drop (entrances both very near the road) there is a case for more access, given that journeys to and from these holes will cause relatively little disturbance to the fell.

Lord Shuttleworth has agreed to give our request for better access his consideration, but initially requested we provide Landowner Indemnification cover. This was made available via the BCRA insurance scheme. Subsequently in correspondence back and forth, the land agent has sought to clarify several other points, mainly to do with the insurance arrangements, and adequacy of measures in the event a claim was made against the estate, following an accident. It is felt that developments following the Gaping Gill tragedy have had quite a bearing on the estate's thinking here. We have currently arranged for the respective insurance brokers to see if there is an adequate 'fit' between Lord Shuttleworth's landowner liability cover, and the BCRA's indemnity policy. In the event that the estate can be reassured about these things, it will hopefully be possible to carry forward discussions about better access.

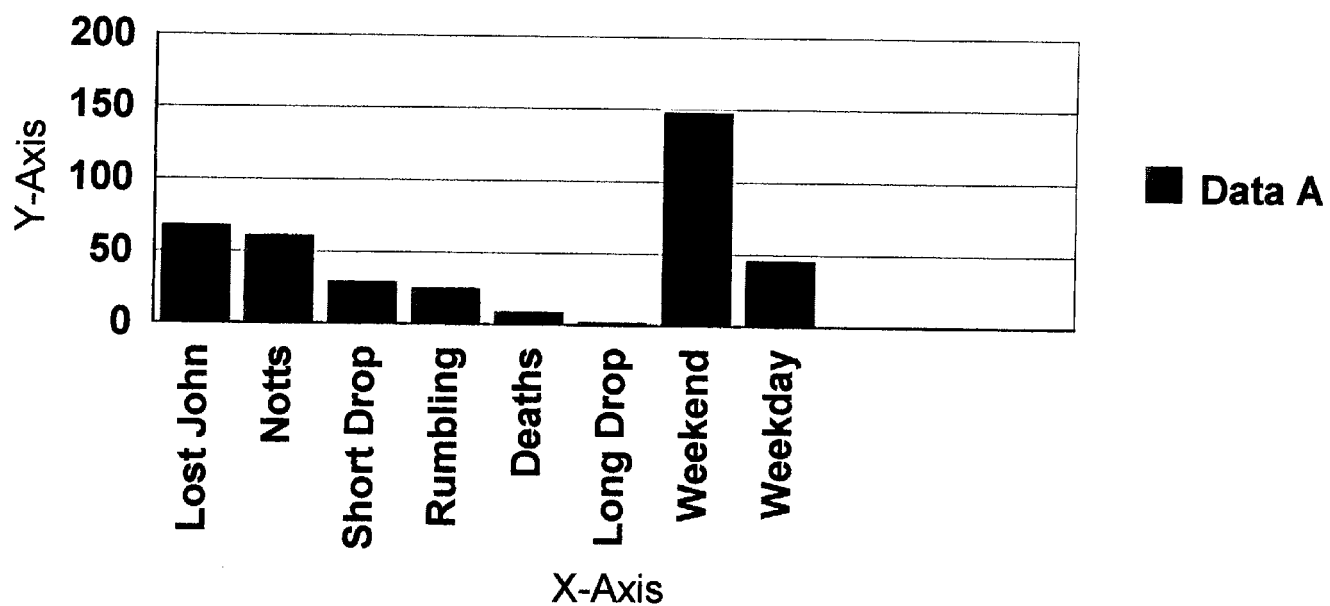
As a gesture of goodwill the estate has agreed that the amount of notice required before a visit to the fell is made, can be cut down considerably. Now, provided clubs contact me before the first working day of the last full week of the month, I shall be able to issue permits for the following month. Can clubs please remember that following a visit to the fell, the permit must be posted through the estate office letterbox (opposite the car park at Cowan Bridge).

Reports are currently being investigated that part of the Leck estate has been sold to a neighbouring farmer. Any important developments regarding access will be circulated as soon as possible.

CNCC Meets Secretary
Leck Fell

Signed.....
Date.....

Leck Fell 1998. Numbers of permits issued.



Council of Northern Caving Clubs

Meets Secretary's Report for Birks Fell & Mongo Gill

General

This is my tenth year as access controller and I know of no problems regarding access to Birks Fell.

Birks Fell

The National Trust have made no comment on the working of the Access agreement to date. Although not as common I am still receiving reports that some of the boulders near the second pitch are moving and parties should take care in that area of the cave. Bookings have continued to drop with only 19 (21) bookings already made for 1999, this represents a further decrease on the pattern of a few years ago.

1977	32	1978	35	1979	40	1980	41
1981	50	1982	47	1983	52	1984	63
1985	46	1986	55	1987	44	1988	28
1989	32	1990	25	1991	41	1992	49
1993	35	1994	41	1995	39	1996	34
1997	35	1998	28				

Average number per year for the last 10 years - 36 (36)

Robinson's Pot

The National Trust agreed to a trial period of two years with 3 permits available in each year of 1997 and 1998. There was considerable delay in renewing the agreement because all the National Trust staff with whom I had negotiated have since left. However on 10 March I heard the good news that the agreement had been renewed, without time limit. The bad news is that there has been no increase in the number of available permits. The Trust say that this is because the entrance to the hole was not always secured when parties were down. I do not believe that it is worth disputing this point but will try for an increase in the number of permits in a year or two's time. I would suggest that we continue the practice used last year of drawing names out of a hat to establish who receives a permit. I would further propose that we continue to exclude those clubs who have already received one of the six permits issued so far.

Mongo Gill

After a year when there was no access all the requested work on the various shafts has been completed and a new agreement has been reached. This allows greater access than in the past with a reduced closed season. It also permits access to Valentines shaft which was not included in the previous agreement. So far I have received requests for 12 permits in 1999.

An agreement has also been reached which allows access via Great Expectations into the Stump Cross streamway. There has

been no access to this area for a number of years but the new entrance which was opened by CPC allows access without going through the show cave. The show-cave owners have requested that party size be limited to 6 including a recognised leader. At present there are only 5 recognised leaders, all members of the original digging team. So far I have only received one request for access.

Ric Halliwell
18 March 1999

Detailed Notes

Robinson's Pot

Permits in 1997 went to
Lancashire Underground Group
Craven Pothole Club
Orcus Caving Group

Permits in 1998 went to
Morley Pothole Club
Red Rose Cave & Pothole Club
Wensleydale Speleo Group

Permits for 1999

3 permits are available on fixed dates, these dates (the second Saturday in each month) are:

10 June
9 September
14 October

The following Clubs have applied for permits during this year
Airedale Pothole Club
Westminster Speleological Group

To make life easy I would suggest that the first name out of the hat gets the first date, the second name gets September and the third gets October.

File : \Per\Per\CNCC99

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS
PENYGHENT AND FOUNTAINS FELL

STUART MARSHALL, 39 CARLBY GROVE, KEIGHLEY, BD22 6DZ.

TEL: 01535/664271

CNCC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

27TH MARCH 1999.

As usual, please accept my apologies for not attending the AGM yet again - one year I'll be able to make it!!

42 member clubs visited pots in 1998 and no problems were reported from the farmers/landowners. The enclosed breakdown lists the numbers and pots visited and by whom - the same clubs keep reappearing each year!!

I am issuing permits for Gingly Hole for 1999 in the hope that the collapse at Stalactite Chamber will have been resolved. The 'season' does not begin until May '99 and if the situation has not changed I will cancel permits on a monthly basis as in 1998.

Dalehead Pot entrance is still unsafe and I may (only may!!) summon the enthusiasm to try and attempt more work there.

Washfold Pot is to remain in the permit system after discussions with English Nature.

1998 was a busy year for club trips with relatively few problems. With two pots not accessible there are only nine more to close before there will be no problems at all (joke!!!!).

I am happy to remain Meets Secretary for another year unless anyone else from BPC has a burning desire for the post!

Regards



Stuart Marshall.

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

NCA AGM & National Council Report

The NCA AGM on Saturday 20 March 1999 produced a number of significant changes that the CNCC committee, and its member clubs, must understand the significance of.

Motion to restrict voting at the '99 AGM

Prior to the AGM, ALL member clubs received a letter informing them of the following proposal from the CSCC, on behalf of their clubs: "*It is proposed that clubs that do not pay a subscription will not have a vote at the 1999 AGM and any subsequent ballot*". I and a number of other delegates (almost all from the north) accepted that in principle, as most clubs present had paid NCA subscriptions, then they could decide how that meeting (the 1999 AGM) should be managed. However, denying member clubs (remember that the letter had been sent to all member clubs) a vote at any postal ballot would be unconstitutional as in clause 5.1.b. of the NCA constitution which clearly states "*caving clubs that are affiliated to or members of regional councils etc.*". We could not be persuaded otherwise and therefore voted against the proposal. The proposal stood.

Treasurer

Agenda item 22a. Bob Mehew, was formally accepted NCA treasurer.

Equipment Officer

- Agenda item 22b. The positions of Equipment Officer will continue to be undertaken by Nick Williams, although his work load will be shared by those within the equipment committee. The post of Publications and Information officer is left vacant.

NCA Subscriptions for '99

Agenda item 23. Although this may seem a rather innocuous proposal: "*that the agreement of the June 1997 structure committee meeting be ratified and that subscriptions remain at £40 for constituent bodies and £10 for individual clubs*", it was actually the most contentious and heated part of the meeting. In fact we needed to break for lunch at this point, in order that the delegates could sort out their differences during the break.

During the discussion of the item it was decided that the interpretation of clause 5.1 of the constitution, which defines NCA membership, and has been the route of confusion regarding membership, should be clarified. The meeting agreed the words "*the eligibility of*" be inserted so that clause 5.1 now reads: "*the association shall have the following classes for defining the eligibility of membership*".

It was argued that amending this clause is a constitutional amendment, thus requiring a postal ballot - which would now only be sent to NCA clubs that had paid their membership subscription.

A vote was taken at the meeting and it was decided that it was a procedural matter and not a policy matter. Thus it was passed. CNCC voted against it on the grounds that the constitution had been altered which required a postal ballot.

However, it has successfully removed the confusion which has caused so much problem to NCA and member clubs without going through a lengthy procedure which would not have been resolved before the next AGM, and I personally welcome this outcome.

Bob Mehew submitted the following proposal: “*that the agreement of the June 1997 structure committee meeting be ratified and that subscriptions remain at £40 for constituent bodies and £10 for individual clubs*”, which, following the previous decision, was amended to; “*that the agreement of the June 1997 structure committee meeting be ratified and that subscriptions remain at £40 for constituent bodies and £10 for individual clubs and that these subscriptions are no longer voluntary*”

CNCC voted for the proposal, but argued that as this was a change of policy and not procedural, it should be subject to a postal ballot - although in reality, a postal ballot to paid up clubs only would mean very little. The argument was defeated and the AGM decided that it was not a policy change but a procedural change, thus not requiring a postal ballot.

This has clear implications for clubs that have not paid their NCA subscriptions, from 20.03.1999 they are no longer NCA member clubs. The next issue of Speleoscene will be the last to clubs who have not paid their NCA subscriptions, and it will explain which NCA services those clubs will no longer be able to access. These are likely to include:

- ▶ *Speleoscene*
- ▶ *Financial aid for training and expeditions*
- ▶ *Access to caves which limit access to NCA member clubs*
- ▶ *Implications for Berger trips*
- ▶ *etc.,*

Treasurers Report

During the review of the Treasurers Report, item 9, it had been noted that the NCA was still running a year on year deficit. Bob Mehew was asked what would the likely subscription increase be for the year 2000. He replied, that realistically, given the current uptake of membership by clubs, subscription would have to be increased by 100% (to £20) to maintain that aspect of NCAs operating costs. CNCC suggested that it could lead to a significant number of the smaller clubs refusing to pay as they could not afford the additional amount, and that this would lead to an ever increasing financial burden on the remaining larger clubs. A proposal from the YSS rep. (Les Sykes) was accepted by the meeting, that will ensure the Treasurer consults all members as to a suitable, graded subscription levy that reflects club size and ability to pay, but will not include additional voting rights. This consultation period will be short, and suitable subscription rates must be agreed at the June meeting of the NCA for amendment and ratification, so that it can be implemented for the 2000 AGM.

NCA National Council Meeting

NCA National Council Meeting immediately followed the AGM. The Council meeting was a bit of an anticlimax following the excitement of the AGM, with nothing of note to report, apart from the co-option of two club positions to National Council: Les Sykes representing YSS and Jim Sloan representing LUG. Some comments were made from the floor regarding these positions, but I fail to see anything sinister, which was the suggestion from the floor.

Comment:

So where are we now? Clubs that have previously been anti NCA due to their "adoption" via the '94 AGM should now be happy. They don't want to be in the NCA, and they are no longer in the NCA - no problem. Clubs that are pro NCA, who have paid their subscription and were frustrated at being "constrained" by non paying clubs should also be happy, as non paying clubs are now out of the picture. NCA now knows how many clubs it has and how to manage its budget, although this may in itself be a problem in terms of meeting budgetary projections.

Quite how CNCC fits in as a Regional Council with few NCA member clubs on its books in terms of receiving grants from NCA is anyone's guess. Bob Mehew is looking at that with some urgency.

I would appreciate a vote of thanks to those members of this committee who give up their time to attend these NCA meetings on your behalf, it's a bugger of a job, but some one has to do it. Those in attendance last Saturday were Les Sykes (YSS) Jim Sloan (LUG), Geoff Barber (Porky Potters) and myself (CNCC).

AND FINALLY:

Jenny Potts (DCA) has reported some confusion amongst DCA member clubs who are also CNCC member clubs in that they are apparently not aware of CNCC's stance on the collection of NCA subscriptions. I would therefore like it minuted that any CNCC member club can pay its NCA membership subscription via the CNCC Treasurer, as has always been the case.

Glenn Jones, CNCC rep to NCA

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

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25/03/99

NCA EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Both Glenn and I have attended both equipment committee meetings. There are only a few items to report.

There are no changes to the installation guidelines for Eco anchors.

The NCA policy on fixed aids is being finalised.

Insurance for anchor replacement, well, as I mentioned in my secretaries report regarding the CNCC insurance cover, it is possible that at some time in the past we were not covered for anchor replacement, even though we were led to believe that we were. However, the issue has now been resolved (hopefully) and we are covered. The only real change is, that after an incident in Derbyshire. The NCA equipment committee decided that an installers registration fee was to be paid for all installers. This will be £2 per installer and is payable at the beginning of the NCA financial year. This should hopefully provide us with an up to date list of current installers nationally.

Nominations for the post of NCA equipment officer were advertised. No nominations were received, so it was decided by the committee that Nick Williams was to continue, and his work load be shared by the committee.

Rope test officer, Owen continues on his tireless quest for data on rope performance. Unfortunately, he does, at times, tend to appear to have his own agenda, a problem that needs constant vigilance and correction by the committee. The way in which ropes are tested has now changed, that being all ropes are now tested wet, because the rope test officer has discovered that wet ropes are weaker.



Les Sykes
CNCC Secretary

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

TECHNICAL GROUP

Annual report to the N.C.A. Equipment committee

- 1: Anchor update, placement/tests/maintenance
- 2: Installation guidelines, amendments
- 3: Regional test beds
- 4: International co-ordinators
- 5: Dissertation etc.

1:

Due to a predominately wet year only a limited number of new anchors were placed. All the anchors requiring standard testing as part of the progressive test program, were tested by the end of the year, 1998. There are still a number anchors requiring maintenance. These anchors were installed using Hilti Hit C50, and within the placement there is visible signs of the resin shrinking or slumping during the curing process. This we feel is a contributing factor to certain anchor placements developing slight rotational movement.

2:

The CNCC Technical Group does not feel that at present the guidelines require any amendments.

3:

All training courses for, anchor placement and the installer refresher courses went ahead as planned. However, the Anchor placement/removal/testing/maintenance seminar was cancelled. This was due directly to a request from NCA for the CNCC Technical Group to finance future training courses, which was due to the financial position of the NCA in general. After careful consideration the technical Group concluded that even though the course was essential to the program, the money should be directed at the anchor test program, thus the course was cancelled.

Anchor placement, maintenance, testing courses for 1999 are appended to this report with the proposed budget requirements, appendix A.

4:

As part of the long term test program, we feel that all the regions should install test beds. The minimum requirement should include one short term test bed and at least one long term test bed. This data can then be collated to give the NCA Equipment Committee an overall picture of:

- the loading capabilities of anchor placements in differing substrates
- the longevity of the system
- anchor placement performance under extreme conditions.

The CNCC Technical Group will offer any help and advice in setting up such test beds. The funding for the project should be directly funded by the NCA as part of the equipment committee's budget.



C.N.C.C. Technical Group



Appendix A

C.N.C.C. T.G. / N.C.A. TRAINING FOR THE YEAR 1999 TO BE FUNDED BY N.C.A.

TOTAL COST £513.80

Anchor placement initial training course

Date: T.B.A.
Duration: 1 day
Numbers: Approximately 4 cavers
Cost: **£77.56**
Travel 140 miles @ 15p.p.m. £21.00
Resin 1 tube @ £21.70 £21.70
Anchors 14 @ £2.49 £34.86

Anchor placement initial training course

Date: T.B.A.
Duration: 1 day
Numbers: Approximately 4 cavers
Cost: **£77.56**
Travel 140 miles @ 15p.p.m. £21.00
Resin 1 tube @ £21.70 £21.70
Anchors 14 @ £2.49 £34.86

Anchor placement refresher training course

Date: T.B.A.
Duration: 1 day
Numbers: Approximately 4 cavers
Cost: **£77.56**
Travel 140 miles @ 15p.p.m. £21.00
Resin 1 tube @ £21.70 £21.70
Anchors 14 @ £2.49 £34.86

Anchor placement refresher training course

Date: T.B.A.
Duration: 1 day
Numbers: Approximately 4 cavers
Cost: **£77.56**
Travel 140 miles @ 15p.p.m. £21.00
Resin 1 tube @ £21.70 £21.70
Anchors 14 @ £2.49 £34.86



C.N.C.C. Technical Group



Anchor replacement/removal/testing/maintenance seminar

Date: T.B.A.

Duration: 2 Days at Helwith Bridge

Numbers: 6 cavers

Cost: **£203.56**

Travel 140 miles @ 15p.p.m. x6	£126
Resin 1 tube @£21.70	£21.70
Anchors 14 @ £2.49	£34.86
Accommodation @ £3.50p.p.n.	£21.00



Appendix B

REGIONAL ANCHOR TEST BED BUDGET

As proposed in the CNCC Technical Group's report to the Equipment committee. The suggestion that regional anchor test beds be initiated so that information of anchor placement can be gathered from more than one region of the Britain. Ideally, one short term test bed and at least two long term test beds should be installed in each region. Below is an estimate of possible costs per test bed. The actual cost of a industrial test supervisor is unknown, but, Richard Laybourn (Hilti UK) is willing to undertake such work for a nominal fee, how far he is willing to travel is unknown, and we may have to incur a travel claim from him.

Short term test bed

Cost £111.60

Anchors 10 @ £2.49	£24.90
Resin 1 tube @ £21.70	£21.70
Installers traveling expenses 100 miles @ 15p.p.m.	£15
Test supervisor	£50

Long term test bed

Cost £111.60

Anchors 10 @ £2.49	£24.90
Resin 1 tube @ £21.70	£21.70
Installers traveling expenses 100 miles @ 15p.p.m.	£15
Test supervisor	£50

The estimated cost indicated below is for the installation of three test beds per region, 1 short term and two long term test beds

D.C.U.C.	£334.80
D.C.A.	£334.80
C.S.C.C.	£334.80
C.C.C.	£334.80
C.N.C.C. T.G.	£334.80
G.P.S.	£334.80
Total cost	£2008.80

Date Notified : 16 February 1999

Site Name: BLACK KELD CATCHMENT AREA, NORTH YORKSHIRE

OPERATIONS LIKELY TO DAMAGE THE FEATURES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Standard

Ref No

Type of Operation

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 7 | Dumping, spreading or discharging any materials. |
| 12 | The introduction of tree and/or woodland management (including planting and felling). |
| 13a | Modification of field drainage, including moor-gripping and the use of mole, tile tunnel, or other artificial drains. |
| 13b | Modification of the structure of water courses (eg rivers, ditches, dykes, drains) including their banks and beds, as by re-alignment regrading or dredging. |
| 14 | Water utilisation through changing water levels. |
| 15 | Infilling of caves. |
| 20 | Extraction of minerals including sand and gravel, topsoil and subsoil. |
| 21 | Destruction, construction, removal, rerouting, or regrading of roads, tracks and walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, including soil and soft rock exposures or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground. |
| 22 | Storage of materials against cave entrances. |
| 23 | Erection of permanent or temporary structures, or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling. |
| 24a | Modification of natural or man-made features (including cave entrances) and clearance of boulders, large stones, loose rock or scree. |
| 27 | Recreational activities within the control of the owner or occupier likely to cause damage to cave formations or deposits. |

Access & Conservation Officers Report to the CNCC AGM 27th March 1999

Casterton Fell : Several meetings were held through the year with Thomas and Henry Bowring. General agreement was reached on our draft agreement and permit. Russell Myers volunteered to complete the final version of the documents. The main tasks for the CNCC once the agreement is signed are to carry out repairs the the path to Lancaster Hole and Link Pot and to publicise the new agreed routes to be used to the caves.

Leck Fell : Lord Shuttleworth has sold the fell up to the wall boudary by the car park to Alan Middleton. The issue of access to the caves on this part of the fell is to be discussed.

Access to the Open Countryside : This again may have some affect on access in our region. I have received a letter from Paul Brooks of the Swaledale Outdoor Club regarding a meeting organised by the YDNPA to develop the Dales Access Partnership. This has been set up to develop increased access opportunities to the upland areas of the National Park in expectation of the Access to the Open Countryside legislation. I have asked him to keep me informed of developments.

Black Keld SSSI : Stuart Marshall received a notification letter from English Nature on the legal obligations of landowners with regard to operations likely to damage the features of special interest. A copy of the list is included with this report. Some of the more interesting points with respect to caving are infilling of caves, storage of materials against cave entrances and recreational activities within the control of the owner or occupier likely to cause damage to cave formations.

Dow Cave : I had a call asking if there was a problem with access to Dow Cave. Graham Mullan had told someone there was a problem, but I have had no information on this.

Moor House National Nature Reserve : Access to the fell (Knock Fell Caverns) should now be obtained from Mr Chris McCarty, Widdy Bank Farm, Langdon Beck, Forest-in-Teesdale, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 0HQ. Tel: 01833 622374.

NCA

Minimal Impact Caving Code/Code of Ethics : These NCA Conservation Handbook items have been circulated to all CNCC clubs. This came about after a disagreement over the party size recommended as between four and six. The training and assessment department are adamant that the size of the party is the sole business of the leader or instructor of the group.

I note that one of the targets of the C&A programme includes reviewing the participation by Constituent Bodies in the C&A Special Committee in light of Constitutional change. Another is to produce one Cave Conservation Plan per area anually.

It is proposed to charge professional cavers 'access fees'. The proposed income for this in 1999 is £5250, £2050 of which is to spent on regional access administration. It is not clear what 'administration' entails. A further £2000 is budgeted for secretarial and travel costs, £1000 on the cave register and £500 on C&A policy. Surely all of these 'access fees' should be passed on to regional councils to carry out access and conservation work, as the professional caver is being charged for maintenance of safe physical condition caves and entrances, access negotiation and permit systems which are carried out at regional level.