

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Agenda for Annual General Meeting 11th March 2023, Clapham Village Hall, 10:00am

Reminder: Representatives will not be permitted to vote during the meeting, unless the Secretary has received authentication identifying the individual as the accepted voting representative of the club. This can be in the form of a letter signed by a club officer, or an email from an official club officer's account. This should be provided electronically to the Secretary in advance of the meeting.

1) Apologies for absence.

2) Applications for full membership:

No applications received.

3) Acceptance of minutes from the 2022 AGM (draft available on website).

4) Declaration of conflicts of interest.

5) Any matters arising or updates on action items from the 2022 AGM.

Reminder of action items from 2022 AGM (with update in red where status known):

Individual(s)	Action item
Josh Y	Finalise 2021 AGM Minutes Done
Gary D	Work with TC to incorporate the dye tracing database into the CNCC's web hosting.
Ian P	Re-draft his proposal regarding retrospectively adding anchors to the CNCC list of approved anchors.

6) Officer reports Reports (to be online approximately one week before the meeting).

- i. Chairman's report
- ii. Secretary's report
- iii. Treasurer's report
- iv. Conservation Officer's report
- v. Access Officer's report
- vi. Training Officer's report
- vii. Any other reports received

7) Election of CNCC Committee for the year 2023-2024

The CNCC requires between 10-14 clubs to comprise the Committee. All full member clubs were asked to provide notification of their intention to stand for Committee by the 14th January deadline (a requirement of the constitution). Notifications are shown in **Appendix A** along with supporting statements. No application has been received for the Individual Caver (IC) Representative.

8) Election of CNCC Officers for the year 2023-2024

- a. Chair
- b. Secretary
- c. Treasurer
- d. Conservation Officer
- e. Access Officer
- f. Training Officer

Notifications are shown in **Appendix B** along with statements.

9) Stump Cross area access

The current access agreement at Stump Cross has become outdated over the years, and now runs contrary to the CNCC's modern approach to negotiating access. A discussion is required to agree on the best way to approach access here, in both the short and long term.

10) Proposal for constitutional amendment

The CNCC treasurer is able to authorise any payments up to £500. The constitution states that payments over this limit must be authorised by the committee, and that this may be done electronically. In the January 2021 Committee meeting, the committee agreed that instead of email ballots to the committee, expenses above £500 may be authorised providing that FOUR of the SIX elected Officers agree, and that the other elected Officers raise no objection. This system has been in place since then, but constitution does not currently make an allowance for this.

Section 4d of the constitution currently reads:

"The Committee may choose to agree an expenditure amount, below which the Treasurer may authorise, and above which must be authorised by the Committee. Until this is agreed, the default position is that all expenditures exceeding £500 must be authorised by the Committee. Where a need for expenditure arises which exceeds the agreed limit, but which is deemed by the Treasurer to require urgent action (before the next scheduled Committee meeting), the Treasurer may seek majority approval of the Committee by documented communication (e.g. email). Documentation showing all responses must be presented at the next Committee meeting."

The following wording is suggested:

“The Committee may choose to agree an expenditure amount, below which the Treasurer may authorise, and above which must be authorised by the Committee. Until this is agreed, the default position is that all expenditures exceeding £500 must be authorised by the Committee. Where a need for expenditure arises which exceeds the agreed limit, but which is deemed by the Treasurer to require urgent action (before the next scheduled Committee meeting), the Treasurer may seek majority approval of the Committee, or approval of four elected Officers where the other Officers raise no objection. In either case, this approval must be sought via documented communication (e.g. email) and documentation showing all responses must be presented at the next Committee meeting.”

11) Dates for the coming year.

Suggested dates for 2023-2024 meetings are presented below for discussion (and if necessary, revision).

Committee Meetings:	Saturday 10th June 2023, 09:30am
	Saturday 28th October 2023, 09:30am
	Saturday 13th January 2024, 09:30am
Annual General Meeting:	Saturday 16th March 2024, 10:00am

12) Any other business?

Appendix A: Committee Elections

The 2022-2023 Committee and their figures for Committee meeting attendance:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Meetings with voting reps present (out of 3)</u>
Bradford Pothole Club	3
Craven Pothole Club	3
Earby Pothole Club	3
Grampian Speleological Group	1
Kendal Caving Club	2
Northern Boggarts	3
Northern Pennine Club	3
Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club	3
University of Leeds Speleological Society	3
White Rose Pothole Club	3
York Caving Club	3
Yorkshire Subterranean Society	2
York University Cave and Pothole Club	3

Clubs which have provided notification to stand for CNCC Committee in 2023-2024

(Listed in chronological order of notification receipt, earliest to latest, total = 13)

Re-standing:	Earby Pothole Club
Re-standing:	Northern Pennine Club
Re-standing:	Grampian Speleological Group
Re-standing:	York Caving Club
Re-standing:	Bradford Pothole Club
Re-standing:	Kendal Caving Club
Re-standing:	White Rose Pothole Club
Re-standing:	Yorkshire Subterranean Society
Re-standing:	Red Rose Cave & Pothole Club
Re-standing:	Northern Boggarts
Re-standing:	Craven Pothole Club
Re-standing:	York University Cave & Pothole Club
Re-standing:	University of Leeds Speleological Association

Therefore, we have 13 applicants and 14 available positions. We need to appoint at least 10 of these applicants to form a Committee.

No applicant has come forward for the Committee position of Individual Caver (IC) representative.

Appendix A (continued): Statements from clubs standing for Committee

Earby Pothole Club: The Earby Pothole Club is amongst the oldest caving clubs in the UK. Founded in 1945 we have had a long association with and have actively supported the CNCC since its inception.

Mainly active in the Northern Region, although small, we have been involved in many successful digging projects, cave archaeological finds and conservation work with members taking part in numerous overseas expeditions.

Many members are also members of other caving clubs in the UK.

We would wish to continue this active support of the CNCC by continuing our position on the Committee.

Northern Pennine Club: The NPC is one of the oldest and largest caving clubs in the UK, with 188 members. Founded in 1946 it has been responsible for some of the great caving discoveries in the Yorkshire Dales. There is a history of the NPC up to the mid 1990s at: <http://www.waddingtons.info/NPC/HISTORY.HTM>

Although mainly an active caving club the NPC also has many members who never venture underground and we have a keen community of triathletes, climbers, walkers and cyclists. We also have a number of junior under 18 members and runs two well attended family weekends per year. The NPC has its base at Greenclose, just outside of Clapham, that provides a focus for its activities and accommodation for both members and guests.

The NPC Committee have again volunteered me to act as their primary representative.

The NPC will continue to support the CNCC in its many activities.

Grampian Speleological Group: I wish to attend CNCC as the sole representative of Scottish cavers, to champion any issues that may arise north of the border. Our support for the work CNCC carries out, particularly in the areas of conservation and repair is echoed in Scotland, where, so far, we have not experienced any major access problems or particular threats to caves that have not been resolved locally. Our continued membership of CNCC also reflects our ongoing activity in the Dales, our nearest sporting region.

York Caving Club: York CC would like to stand again for a position on CNCC Committee (but would happily step back should an influx of new Committee applicants appear). We are a small (~30 members) but busy club based in York, founded in 2009, caving primarily in northern England. We have members involved in numerous aspects of northern caving, including cave rescue, photography, conservation and anchor installation. We are active in digging in the Northern Dales and North York Moors and we have regular sporting trips around the Three Peaks/ Three Counties area. Three of our members have been involved with CNCC for many years. We would be delighted to continue to contribute our voice to the ongoing work of CNCC for 2023-2024.

Bradford Pothole Club: The BPC is a long established club, having a presence in the caving community for 90 years and with a growing membership of over 300 members we are not only one of the largest clubs in the country but also have an active caving membership (above and below water) not only in the Dales, but also have members involved in exploration in various parts of the UK as well as taking part in a number of foreign expeditions every year.

As a club we have been involved with the CNCC from the outset and have a number of members involved in cave conservation projects as well as with Natural England. The club offers club meets every other weekend open to both members and guests and provide visiting cavers whether from university clubs or other established clubs accommodation and local knowledge as well as a warm welcome.

We provide an interface between cavers and the general public through our activities at our annual Gaping Gill meet by providing access to the system either via a winch directly into the main chamber or by rigging the major routes in to the system for visiting cavers to use.

We support a number of local charities and have a number of members who are active in the local cave and fell rescue teams.

Kendal Caving Club: Kendal Caving Club is a relatively small but very active club with trips every Wednesday evening and many weekends. In recent years we have been mainly focused on sport caving although we are still pursuing a few digs to add to the significant list of past KCC discoveries. We continue to introduce new comers to caving and provide equipment and training to those who need it. We feel we would bring a positive and proactive voice to the CNCC and are committed to conservation and opening up access where ever possible. For example we recently had a strong turn out for a conservation and cleaning session in Glasfurds chamber. Last year, 2022, was our sixty fifth year and we still have some original members so we have a lot of history to draw on.

White Rose Pothole Club: The WRPC wish to remain on the committee for 2023 given the positive contribution the CNCC make towards supporting the interests of caving and cavers.

The White Rose Pothole Club has long history of cave exploration in the Yorkshire Dales. Although we are a small close-knit club, our extensive expertise ranges in areas of geology, hydrology, mining, cave diving, cave exploration and surveying.

Yorkshire Subterranean Society: The YSS intend to stand to remain on the CNCC committee. We regularly attend CNCC meetings The club is approaching 60 years of caving and exploration in the Dales, nationally and world wide. Membership encompasses both the first timer and experienced cavers and outdoor enthusiasts and thus feel we can continue to bring a lot to the CNCC table.

Red Rose Cave & Pothole Club: The Red Rose continue to be a thriving and active club are keen to maintain involvement in with matters affecting cavers and caving in the North and support the CNCC in their work. In the last year we've implemented policies to allow younger membership to the club and have our first under 18 member. It's been a slow road, but we're poised to start work on reopening Wretched Rabbit entrance as weather allows and members have contributed to many other conservation and access jobs.

Northern Boggarts: The Northern Boggarts, a local northern caving club based in Clitheroe, is happy to stand again for the committee for the CNCC in 2023. Our club has been on the committee since June 2009 and during this time has played an active part in promoting the interest of northern cavers. Our club has contributed to some of the CNCC Newsletters, helped with the design of a leaflet on digging guidelines and one of our members helped with the publication on the opening of Shuttleworth Pot and Witches 2. Several of our members continue to play an active part in conservation projects and have helped publicise and make photographic records of many of these. Our club continues to play a lively part in the running of CNCC. One of our club members is the Conservation Officer for the CNCC, one is the Treasurer, and another club member is Access Officer for the Bowland Area. We are happy to play an active role in the CNCC and look forwards to your continuing support.

Craven Pothole Club: The Craven Pothole Club as a founding member is keen to continue its long standing contribution to CNCC by again standing for election to the CNCC Committee at the forthcoming AGM.

The CPC are a long established caving club within Dales (1929). We have a large active caving membership of 251 members from all over UK and around the world. We are active club with many club trips organised throughout the year all over the UK (Dales, Peak's, Mendip, Wales and Scotland).

Our annual Gaping Gill winch took place last year and was very successfully especially after running two low key caver only event during COVID-19. The GG winch meet provide a great facility to the caving community with a number of entrances to the GG system rigged for 10 days with an open invitation to the caving community to visit the GG system.

We also provide an great interface for the general public to see and visit gaping gill which enables use to promote the sport to a wider audience

York University Cave and Pothole Club: YUCPC is an extremely active student club, running trips every weekend and hosting regular training sessions to introduce new young people to the wonderful world of caving.

We believe it is important for university clubs to have a voice on the CNCC and can provide our perspective as a student club made up of a young generation of cavers looking to support fellow student clubs.

We have a significant interest in the work of the CNCC and a desire to do what we can to assist that work and contribute to discussions.

University of Leeds Speleological Association: ULSA would like to stand for re-election to the CNCC committee at the AGM this year. We have played an active role on the committee for several years, supporting improved access to caves for all cavers, and improving representation for DIMs. We will continue to ensure that the views and interests of student cavers are represented.

In The Dales, our members are active in sports trips, digging, diving, surveying, conservation and bolting. Many are also members of other caving clubs around the country.

As a university club, we introduce many new, mainly young, people to caving. New cavers are the future of caving and we would like to continue helping the CNCC with the good work they do.

Appendix B: Officer Elections

The following individuals have provided notification of their intention to stand:

Chair: Andrew Hinde

Secretary: No applicant

Treasurer: Pete Bann

Conservation Officer: Kay Easton

Access Officer: Adele Ward

Training Officer: Ian Patrick

Statement from Kay Easton: I would like to stand again for Conservation Officer, a post I have held for the last eight years. I am a member of the Bradford PC and Northern Boggarts. As Conservation Officer, I will perform a facilitative role, helping people access the support and information they need to carry out the conservation projects that they are interested in.