

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the annual general meeting held on Saturday 14th February 1987 at Ingleton Community Centre.

Meeting started at 2pm chaired by D. Leonard.

- 1) ATTENDANCE: D Leonard (ANT), A Leonard (ANT), G Barber (DOSS), P Ramsden (NCA Rep), D Shepherd (Earby p.c.), D Milner (CPC), R Myers (CPC), R Holmes (DHSS), P Allwright (Dent PC), A Polley (Dent PC), T Tanner (RRCPC&ACA), P Muckalt (RRCPC), s Wilson (BCC), A Hall (RRCPC), T Alston (BACI), R Williams (UEG), A Williams (UEG), J Rattray (BPC), I Wilkinson (BPC), A Hardy (CPC), G Shooter (YSS), A Speight (YSS), B Rhodes (BPC).
- 2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None
- 3) MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Taken as read (previously circulated).
- 4) MATTERS ARISING: P Muckalt questioned item (12) regarding schools and outdoor centres. P Ramsden indicated that policy had been discussed and that the current position was that it was not the desire of CNCC to constantly check and vet the leaders of these groups. The chairman said that the situation would be kept under review.
- 5) OFFICERS REPORTS: Chairman; Previously circulated. The chairman reiterated his ideas on travelling expenses for officers. The feeling from the floor was that if expenses were granted to officers it was only fair to include all committee members and field secretaries. In view of the large expense of such a move the chairman dropped his proposal.
Secretary; Previously circulated
Treasurer; Previously circulated. The committee proposed an increase in annual subscriptions to £7. The view was expressed that this was a large "all in one go" increase. It was also felt that £7 was not enough as reserves were very low and no money was available for contingencies, the lack of finance was also preventing CNCC from taking more positive initiatives. Craven Pothole Club proposed that subs be increased to £10 per annum, this was seconded by Red Rose, the proposal was carried 6 for, 4 against. Annual subscriptions from 1988 will be £10.
Access and Conservation; i) Casterton Fell. Negotiations have now been in progress since February 1984, with little progress. The land agents want CNCC to levy a charge of £2 per caver per trip. They are concerned about the increased number of people using the fell and claim that higher levels of access are affecting sporting rights. P Muckalt pointed out that there was increased pirating of the caves and that the number of permits issued had increased only slightly. Using

Using current figures a charge of £2 per head would generate an income of £5-6,000 per annum. Leaving aside the desirability of such a charge it was felt that it would be impossible for

CNCC to levy such a fee; ie if if people payed in advance what about poor weather, changing numbers etc etc. Apart from these considerations it was stressed that cavers would not be prepared to pay £2 per trip and a dangerous precedent would be set. In a letter to the chairman Jim Davis suggested that a 20p payment similar to that at Alum Pot for the upkeep of footpaths, walls etc might be acceptable. The following motion was proposed by CPC and seconded by DHSS:- "That CNCC does not accept the system of collecting £2 per head", the proposal was carried unanimously. Lengthy discussions followed as to the course of action to take having rejected the land agents proposals. A number of ideas were talked over including negotiating open access, apply to make caves public footpaths involving the Ramblers Association and buying or leasing the land as the BMA has done with certain crags. It was felt that a leasing arrangement or one of payment for maintenance of access might be acceptable. The meeting left the matter in the hands of the officers and committee to continue negotiations. At present however CNCC has notice that its access agreement on Casterton Fell will be terminated as from April 5th 1987. The meets secretary for Casterton Fell will write to the clubs holding permits for after April 5th informing them of the situation. In the meantime for any clubs wanting permission to go caving on Casterton Fell after April 5th 1987 this is the address to write to: Davis and Bowring

Chartered Surveyors and Land Agents

6-8 Main Street

Kirby Lonsdale

Carnforth

Lancashire

LA6 2AF

Tel (0468) 71711

The White Scar management have submitted a planning application to extend the show cave by boring a tunnel to beyond the battlefield. Some discussions on the matter resulted in the following conclusions; 1) by bypassing the battlefield the extension would in effect help to preserve this delicate part of the cave. 2) the access and conservation officer would write objecting to any dumping of spoil in the lakes ie all the spoil should be taken out of the cave. 3) access should be maintained for cavers into the far reaches of the system. Anyone with any further objections should write to Craven

MEETS SECRETARIES REPORTS CONT.

- ii)Leck Fell: no permits left for weekends up to the close season. On the 31st December 1986 the entrance to Notts Pot collapsed, it is still blocked.
- iii)Casterton Fell: report enclosed. Too many examples of pirating. It is intended to put a moveable grill over the entrance to Link and Mistal to prevent sheep going caving.
- iv)Birks Fell/Mongo Gill Report enclosed.
- v) Pennyghent: Number of requests for permits down, possibly because of more pirating eg Leeds University rescue incident. If pirating continues any more incidents will lead to access problems. This area has the same land agents as Casterton Fell.

6) ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:

Chairman	D Leonard	Proposed	Earby	Seconded	DOSS
Secretary	B Rhodes	"	DOSS	"	ANT
Treasurer	G Barber	"	BPC	"	CPC
Ass. Sec	B Suddell	"	ANT	"	EARBY
Access&Cons.	A Hall	"	DOSS	"	NPC

COMMITTEE MEMBERS*

Earby P.C.	Proposed	Y.S.S.	Seconded	CPC
Y.S.S.	"	ANT	"	RRCPC
Dent House S.S.	"	DOSS	"	EPC
Craven P.C.	"	Burnley	"	BPC
Burnley	"	ANT	"	CPC
CRITSTONE	"	BPC	"	CPC
White Rose	"	BPC	"	YSS
U.E.G.	"	BPC	"	Burnley

- 7) N.C.A.: Paul Pamsden to represent CNCC on the working party to restructure British caving, along with A Hall.
NCA AGM 21st March, 4 representatives are needed, P Ramsden, G Barber and D Leonard volunteered; any others welcome, please contact one of the above.

8) ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Two applications for membership.

Wolverhampton Caving Group

V M Penny
17 Balmain Crescent
Wolverhampton

Proposed Shropshire Caving
and Mining Club.

WV 11 1BG

Seconded NPC

Karabiner Mountaineering Club

L Davis
51 Windsor Road

Proposed YSS
Seconded Trent Poly Students

Levenshulme

Manchester M19 2FA

Both applications were accepted.

THE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 1986

~~In fact~~

In several respects, 1986 has been a disappointing year.

Much time at the six committee meetings has been spent on the ~~an~~ vexed question of pirating - about which there seems very little we can do short of expelling member clubs - several of whom are reluctant to pay their annual dues promptly.

No doubt our Treasurer will report on the financial situation and it would seem one way to save administration costs will be to reduce meetings from the current total of six to the constitution minimum of three.

Despite ^{the} strenuous efforts of our Access & Conservation Officer and area Meets Secretaries, our attempts to sign new access agreements for both Leck and Casterton Fells have not - so far - proved successful.

We are continuing to issue permits in the spirit of the lapsed agreements although some clubs/cavers seem to think they have free access to these sensitive fells. This does not help the situation.

I have suggested that the Council may agree in principle to pay a contribution towards Officers travelling expenses - assuming the Council is on a sound financial footing. It is my considered opinion that one of the main reasons why voluntary organisations such as ours have difficulty in filling committee places is the not inconsiderable cost of attending meetings. Those of us who represent small clubs are unlikely to obtain financial assistance from ~~their~~ clubs - I hope larger clubs subsidise their representatives.

This ^{still} brings me to the subject of the annual subscription which, for 1987 is the paltry sum of £4.00. A proposal will be put to the next A.G.M. to increase this to a ^{more} realistic figure.

I regret that this Council does not have the manpower to adequately attend the regular meetings of the National Caving Association. If the ongoing discussions on the future of our National body result in an organisation where any caver can express any relevant opinion this can only be to the good of the future of Caving in this country.

David Leonard (A.M.T.)
22nd December 1986.

Hon. Chairman C.N.C.C.

David Leonard

C.N.C.C. SECRETAY'S REPORT

Once again I must extend my thanks to the North West Sports Council in Manchester who reproduce and send out the minutes, on the occasion that their machines broke down the task of collating, licking and stamping was extremely time consuming. Minutes are also a major item of expenditure costing up to £90 to circulate, I only hope that they are read and that anything relevant is passed on to club members.

Attendance at some meetings has been very good, it amazes me that members show immense patience with individuals who produce a lot of "hot air", slow down proceedings and criticise people on subjects that they know nothing about. I would like to emphasise the need for committee members to give at least a weeks notice if they cannot make meetings, then if a number of people cannot meetings can be postponed and nobody wastes their own time.

The failure of a number of clubs to pay subscriptions is of concern, though hopefully a tougher policy on the issueing of permits should resolve this problem; in certain cases it may simply be that the club no longer exists. Applications for membership are bouyant with an average of 3 or 4 per meeting which shows continued support of the C.N.C.C. organisation and its policies, its nice to think that you are giving up your free time for a usefull purpose.

Brian Rhodes
Hon. Secretary

Treasureres Report to the CNCC AGM 1987

Excess of expenditure over income of £178 is not too bad but added to the massive excess of 1985 (caused by spending on the Handbook and the NCA Conservation Fund) it means we are now down to around £500 cash in hand. It looks like a good time to consider raising the subs.

The year started badly with a rush of spending and subs not coming in - we actually went into the red for a short time! The measures taken at the last committee meeting seem to be working with over half the clubs having paid subs for '87 to date.

So we have spent £1353 this year this is roughly where it has gone.

Printing, postage and stationary.....	£600
Officers travel.....	£120
Insurance.....	£100
NCA subs.....	£ 95
Casterton negotiations.....	£240
Bull Pot emergency phone.....	£150
Access on Fountains Fell etc.....	£100

[Handwritten signature]

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

85, CHURCH STREET
LANCASTER LA1 1YT

26TH JANUARY, 1987

THE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER, 1986

	1986		1985	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
SUBSCRIPTIONS	660		649	
GRANTS (N.C.A. 1985)	484		423	
BUILDING SOCIETY INTEREST	31	1175	82	1154
	-----		-----	
EXPENDITURE				
ROOM HIRE	8		5	
INSURANCE	100		100	
N.C.A. SUBSCRIPTION	95		-	
PRINTING AND STATIONERY	559		516	
OFFICERS EXPENSES	105		95	
WORKING PARTY	60		202	
LEGAL FEES RE ACCESS NEGOTIATIONS	240		-	
AUDIT	31		31	
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE	150		117	
DONATION TO N.C.A. CONSERVATION FUND	-		200	
PRINTING HAND BOOK	-		789	
BANK CHARGES	5	1353	-	2055
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EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME		(178)		(901)
		-----		-----

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1986

ASSETS

CASH AT BANK	363		140	
BURNLEY BUILDING SOCIETY	215	578	885	1025
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LIABILITIES

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE	51		16	
CREDITORS	-	51	304	320
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		527		705
		-----		-----

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		705		1606
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME FOR THE YEAR TO DATE		(178)		(901)
		-----		-----
		527		705
		-----		-----

PREPARED FROM AND CERTIFIED TO BE IN ACCORDANCE
WITH INFORMATION AND EXPLANATIONS SUPPLIED.

Scott. Wilkins

85, CHURCH STREET
LANCASTER LA1 1YT

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

26TH JANUARY, 1987.

C.N.C.C. CONSERVATION & ACCESS OFFICER'S REPORT 1986/87.

During the year I have maintained close liason with the Nature Conservancy Council, particularly the regional office at Leyburn and their Chief Geologist Dr Richards from Peterborough. It is hoped that this close liason will prevent a situation, like that which occurred on Mendip, from developing. Contact, advice and comments were made on the following sites where problems had arisen concerning SSSI boundaries or problems with farmers and land owners.

Clapham Cave(May)
Upper Nidderdale(Aug)
Boreham Cave(Aug)
Whernside(Sept)

Birks Fell Cave(Oct)
Ingleborough(Nov)
White Scar Cave(Dec/Jan)

The only ones causing major concern were Clapham Cave (proposal to build a flood control gate) and White Scar Cave (planning permission application to construct a tunnel to extend the show cave). Both of these are being thoroughly investigated by the N.C.C. since I and other cavers have lodged objections. They need careful thought if the caves are to be properly conserved. I have more details if people want them, including the White Scar planning application. I continued N.C.C. liason at the BCRA Conference where I attended the SSSI debate with Dr Richards.

I have attended a couple of N.C.A. C&A meetings during the year. Pete Mellors from DCA has now replaced Howard Jones on the Cave Conservation Emergency Fund Committee. The NCA will soon publish a "Legal Aspects of Access Underground" booklet. Both cavers and landowners should find it a useful guide to how the law relates to access, liability and conservation.

Casterton Fell negotiations:- After over a year of not hearing from the agents for Casterton Fell, on 10th Jan I received a letter from Davis & Bowring. They wanted to know if the C.N.C.C. was prepared .. ."to levy a charge of £2 per person going caving on the Fell." He only gave me a week to reply. I sent a rather terse letter in which I explained that we would need a C.N.C.C. meeting and that it would take time to set up. On 21st Jan I got a letter terminating the licence as from 5th April, unless we satisfied his wishes by that time. Since then I have spoken on the phone to him to try to arrange a meeting but he refused as he said there was nothing to discuss until we had some proposals on how we intended to collect the money. Here the situation stands at present. It is up to the A.C.M. to decide how we proceed from here. But remember the payment of any money would set a damaging precedent in British caving.

A. S. Hall

Andy Hall

(C.N.C.C. C & A Officer 10.2.87)

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS
PERMITS SECRETARY REPORT
CASTERTON FELL & PIPPIKIN POT 1986-7.

I regret that 1986 seems to have been an explosive year for all to go caving without permission, which does nothing for the access negotiations.

I think the time has come for some action to be taken by the Council to notify the number of School parties, Outdoor Pursuits Centres, Manpower Services, Universities and an ever increasing number of cavers misusing Casterton Fell and pleading ignorance of the permits system.

Report from Leck Fell Farmers

Pippikin Pot permits not being shown or used correctly.
Short cuts down the fell from Lost Johns car park
(Most pirates go this way as well as via Bull Pot Farm).

Casterton Fell

Car parking very bad - worse than last year.
Permits still not being shown or displayed in car windows
(You are assisting unauthorised access by not giving the information as requested)

Some clubs are still requesting more entrances than are possible. Please give alternative dates, not entrances.

P. Muckalt
1st January, 1987.



ANNUAL REPORT

Meets Sec. Ribblesdale

276 permits were issued which was 40 less than 1985.

1986 has been marred by access problems, arising out of rescues due to cavers entering potholes in less than stable weather conditions.

Early in the year rescues at Hammer Pot and Gingling Hole resulted in the farmer wishing to close the fell. This was avoided after considerable efforts by both the CNCC and CRO, and at the cost of a reduced open season and many hours of voluntary work by CRO mending the track. Further the CNCC is committed to rebuild the bridge near the shooting hut. This work is being undertaken by the Earby P.C., the Y.S.S. and the B.P.C.

Later in the year a rescue in Peny-gent Pot caused by flooding endangered access to the area. Again the main cause of concern by the Land agents was cavers going underground when heavy rain was forecast. The fact that they didn't have a permit made matters worse. The situation was rectified only after a lot of persuasion by CNCC and a good deal of embarrassment to the full member club concerned.

All the major potholes in the area are seriously affected by flooding and can become impassible in a matter of minutes.

ACCESS FOR 1987

Gingling and Hammer Pots - 2nd week in May until the end of October.
Peny-gent, Washfold, Magnatometer and Echo - open all year.

IAN WILKINSON

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Meets Secretary's Report for Birks Fell and Mongo Gill

General

The change of Meets Secretary in December 1986 appears, so far, to have caused few problems. Hopefully the recently issued updated address list will assist.

In line with Council policy I have declined to issue permits to clubs who have not yet paid their 1987 subscriptions. This is causing some additional work in explaining why permits are being withheld, plus the extra workload for our Treasurer in keeping all concerned aware of the latest subscription payments. Hopefully the system is producing the desired results.

Despite my brief spell in office may I repeat the time honoured requests for clubs to enclose a Stamped Addressed Envelope with all correspondence. Failure to do so will mean permits being despatched in an unstamped envelope and I accept no responsibility for the additional expense this may cause, or for any delay. Last but not least will club meets organisers check that the dates they request do not fall within the 'Closed Season'.

Birks Fell

No access problems to report.

Of the 56 weekend days available during the 1986 season, 41 were booked. In addition 14 mid-week permits were issued.

For the record a look back through previous years bookings shows the following information on permits issued per year:

1977 - 32	1981 - 50	1984 - 63
1978 - 35	1982 - 47	1985 - 46
1979 - 40	1983 - 52	1986 - 55
1980 - 41		

The situation at 13th February, for the current year was 30 bookings confirmed, of which 5 are mid-week. Dates are still available, mainly for the period late July to end of October, for any interested club (assuming they have paid their subs.)

Mongo Gill

Again no access problems to report.

Permits issued for 1986 were 28 to a total of only 14 different organisations. 25% of these bookings were for mid-week. Again a brief breakdown of previous years bookings is as follows:

(Earliest traceable record was 1977 when only 7 permits were issued)

1981 - 28	1984 - 44
1982 - 39	1985 - 24
1983 - 30	1986 - 28

Bookings at 13th February for 1987 were 25, 18 of which were mid-week. Again plenty of dates available for interted groups.

Dave Milner.
13th February, 1987.

REPORT OF CNCC. REP. ON N.C.A. TRAINING COMMITTEE

There have been 3 main areas of interest:-

I. Local Cave Leader & Cave Instructor training & assessment.

Most time has been spent on this to ensure continuity of existing schemes after Whernside ceased involvement. It is stressed that these schemes are aimed only at those taking responsibility for others. L.E.A.s and employers need some standard to apply for leaders of organised parties & it is important that such schemes are controlled by cavers rather than employers. Equally, approved leaders who are acting as our ambassadors representing the image of caving to beginners must have credibility with cavers.

In this area the Northern England Local Cave Leader Panel has been set up for interested organisations, so that they do not have to operate in isolation and to ensure consistency of standards. A seminar for trainers and assessors was held at Whitehall centre from 21-23 Nov. Methods of training and assessment, and validating assessors & schemes were discussed. A report will be available shortly.

2. Caver Training.

The Training Committee think that training for cavers should be available, particularly in modern techniques. Because nothing specifically has been organised less time has been spent on this topic, this is no reflection of it's relative importance.

3. The grant submission to the Sports Council on Training

This will dictate what happens in future. Two full time training-co-ordinators are proposed and a peripatetic training scheme. Leaflets are available on "So you want to go caving" for the novice also "Courses for novices/cavers/cave leaders"

Any comments welcomed.- Paul Ramsden.

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I attended a meeting of the grant-aid Working Party to consider setting up a system to look into possible restructuring of a national body for caving.

The likely course of action is for N.C. A. to publicise an analysis of the current functions & structures, possible alternatives with a case for and against each. It will make it known that the Working Party exists, and what representation on the W.P. is. (Possibly two Reps. per constituent body-ideally with different opinions? , maximum consistency of attendance at W.P. meetings, Reps. gathering information however possible through their constituent bodies.) Nothing was finalised, the next N.C.A. meeting will decide. Any comments....

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