

# C.N.C.C. ANNUAL REPORT

1997



# COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING, Held on 7th. December, 1996, at the Village Institute, Hellifield.

PRESENT: L.Sykes(LUG), G.Jones(WSG), J.M.Sloane(LUG), A.C.May(NSG), S.Pope(NSG), P.Worsley(PFC), P.Judson(G-6C), J.Harland(ACC), R.Myers(CPC), B.Quinton(NB), R.Wilding(OCG), A.Bolton(YSS), B.Bond(BCC/CRO), F.Ramsden(FTA), A.Hodgeson(BRCFC), P.Heywood(PCC), R.Cook(PCC), S.Bradley(PCC), J.E.Potts(Orpheus C.C./Observer), J.K.Eve(YUCPC), M.Middleton(YUCPC), H.Lomas(YRC), G.Barber(PF), R.Holmes(DHSS), P.Allwright(DHSS), F.Durham(YSS), R.Stephenson(DCRNC), S.Marshall(BFC).  
(Being: 16 full member clubs, and 4 associate member clubs represented).

APOLOGIES: P.Parker(WRCPC).

Meeting commences: at 10-16am.

## THE CURRENT SITUATION WITHIN THE NCA:

RM: gave the background to the need for calling the meeting. Also, see the AGM minutes, and those for 4/10/96.

GJ: went on, to say that things really came to a head at the last council meeting out of frustration over procedures in making claims for financial reimbursement from the NCA. He emphasised that the NCA was working hard, and doing good work, but was not reflecting what cavers really want.

LS: re-instated the background to this meeting, adding that 10 clubs had called for a Special General Meeting. The meeting would be an open forum for representation to be made on what those attending wanted from the NCA. Open discussion being encouraged, decisions to be minuted for use as our mandate.

## NCA RESTRUCTURING:

J.E.Potts: gave the background to the NCA Restructuring, also the NCA's history going back to 1968. LS: observed that at the last NCA AGM he was very confused as to who was eligible to vote. He noted a change from four CNCC representatives, down to just one. The constitution was a literary nightmare. He requested that the NCA re-instate the constituent bodies votes back to three, and not to press further with it's denigration of the CNCC's historic role within it's governing body. Crucial amendments were now being made by the NCA restructuring Committee, and not at the AGM. The AGM has been turned into a an open-forum meeting, with ratification by clubs, and not constitutional bodies. Who wanted this change in Northern Clubs? After a short discussion no positive support could be found. Other points made were that: the NCA decision process is now ludicrous, and that cavers are not keen on individual membership of a national body, they join clubs, and councils to find this kind of affiliation.

## COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

LS: asked: do you want individual club membership, or personal membership? This is a vital question as the NCA needs finances to run, the government finances via the Sports Council were drying up, so if the NCA is to continue to run it needs someone to have to pay for it's future life.

GJ: has noted the priority of member clubs paying into the NCA, within NCA correspondence he had seen(also: see Nca item in Speleoscene No. 26).

JP: said that what happened at the NCA AGM was a carry over from ideas for changes in constitution from Restructuring Committees'. Ratification of the issues coming from ballots to clubs. People turn up and have one club vote. She promised that there had been good intent behind the ammendments.

RM: countered that the NCA AGM decision making ability had been + with in a very radical way.

JP: stated that the idea was to get deleted about the subjects being discussed, and voted upon.

### MEMBER CLUBS OF THE NCA:

LS: noted that this idea in the NCA went back as far as 1994. This meant that member clubs of regional councils automatically became member clubs of the NCA. As member clubs, is this what those here want? To return ballot forms, etc..... As clubs, do you want to get involved in caving politics?

PR: answered that cavers want to go caving. Some system is needed, but should only come into gear when needed; at present when it did, in the form of the NCA it tended to fail cavers. Ideally, it should be sparked-up by individual issues, the rest of the time being dormant as far as cavers are concerned.

RM; gave an example from his own club: out of 200 members he is the only one who is interested in national caving politics.

JP: admitted that the NCA haven't got it right yet.

LS: said: big changes are coming in the NCA, only cavers can block, and change these moves. So, tell the NCA what you want at its' next AGM.

PCC members: noted that they expected the regional body to take on their representation nationally, and speak for them. Being a member club of the NCA would only confuse things for a lot of cavers.

LS; noted that the government is imposing things on the NCA, but that the money which it was allotting them is getting more limited. They have been given more responceibilities to cover,,but the finance has not gone up.

Money would have to come from somewhere and ideally to the NCA this would come from the clubs it intended to make members.

# COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

## THE ROLE OF THE NCA:

GJ: thought that the NCA should inter-face with the government. As a representational body for our sport it was required. In its role of producing guidelines for caving, and the training programmes, its' work was helping people who take non-cavers caving, and not for recreational cavers like us.

JP: said there had been an increase in the amount of caving done by Scout, and school groups in Britain. Local authority centres etc... The National policy was to advise people on caving at these centres. There was pressure on certain cave sites, which had been shut to cavers due to the behaviour of non-caver groups. The NCA gave national back-up to regional issues when it comes to the crunch.

The meeting decided that the NCA was for national issues, on an as, and when needed basis.

## SUBSCRIPTION, AND FINANCE:

GJ: asked: what is the point of giving out money to the NCA, only to claim most of it back at a later date? He then put forward a model for the financial running of the NCA. He proposed that only the regional bodies are needed to represent cavers to the NCA. Regional councils shall be self-financing, a maximum of £50 p.a. being given by them for NCA administration. BACI (having 52 members) should pay £100 p.a. to the NCA, as they are the main beneficiary of training grants etc.. from the NCA.

There followed a debate by PR, PJ, and JP.

## NCA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS:

LS: read from a NCA draft copy. Clause 8.3: " There shall be no requirement for a quorum", also a statement from Clause 8.4.

This was found to be totally unacceptable. A quorum of seven was not enough for a national AGM (this could be as little as 5 member clubs, plus 2 officers). The CNCC are very concerned as to how things are going, especially our loss of regional council representation.

GB: saw the value of individual say, but not at the expense of the CNCC etc... in national issues.

## RESOLUTION:(Our Mandate to the NCA).

HL: nationally the CNCC represents the requirements of cavers in this area, and that we should always keep this in our sights.

GJ: clubs think that their interests are being represented by the CNCC, there is no real interest in NCA membership separate to this.

After discussion a proposal was reached. This being:

PROPOSAL: This meeting has no confidence in the current structure of the NCA.

## **COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS**

The member clubs of the CNCC propose that the CNCC Hon. Treasurers' model of financing, and structuring the NCA be expanded upon, and presented to the NCA as being the desired method of structuring/financing the NCA.

This was proposed by WSG, seconded by LUG. Vote unanimous, carried.

The meeting closed at 13-34.

These minutes were taken, and prepared by A.Bolton, C.N.C.C. Assistant Secretary.

# COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

MINUTES OF THE C.N.C.C. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD ON MARCH 1st, 1997, at the Hellifield Village Institute.

PRESENT: A.Bolton(Y.S.S.), Russell Myers(Chairman/C.P.C.), Les Sykes(Secretary/L.U.G.), J.H.Sloane(L.U.G./Y.S.S.), Geoff Barber(Porky Potters/English Nature), Paul Ramsden(Freetime Activities/Training Officer), Andy May(N.S.G.), Janet Harland(A.C.C.), Barry Andrew(A.C.C.), Ric Halliwell(C.P.C./H.U.C.C.), Chris Gibson(F.L.C.P.C.), Peter Muckalt(Casterton Fell Access), Harvey Lomas(Y.R.C.), Pete Bennett(Rubber Duck C.C.), Mark Johnson(Rubber Duck C.C.), Ron Cook (Pendle C.C.), Stephen Bradley(Pendle C.C.), Glenn Jones(Wensleydale S.G.), I.Lloyd(Bradford C.C.), C.S. Camm(W.R.C.F.C.), A.L. Hodgson(R.R.C.F.C.), Roy Holmes(D.H.S.S.), David Shepley(D.H.S.S.).

APOLOGIES: P.Parker(W.R.C.F.C.), North Wales C.C., Padiham P.C., Northants Underground Group, Orcus Caving Group, D. Leonard(A.N.T.).

The meeting started at 10-12am..

Minutes of the last meeting: Signed as true, and correct.

Matters arising from the minutes: R.N: noted that the Meets secretaries meeting didn't occur. L.S: explained that this was originally called for in view of the Leck Fell booking position last year, this has since rectified itself.

Chairman's Report: Read out by R.N: a general overview in which he expressed concern for the position on Casterton Fell. He also gave his view of the N.C.A. situation: the structure committee, and events after(see previous minutes, and correspondence). Over the last two months correspondence has escalated. C.N.C.C. intend to press-on with the C.N.C.C. Treasurer's Proposal, nationally(especially at the N.C.A. AGM.). He noted that the e-mail has been very derogatory, and revealing as to the personal views, and concepts of N.C.A. leaders. Examples were given of this.

In conclusion he said that what we find objectionable in the N.C.A. situation is the secrecy in which it carries out things.

Secretary's Report: Written report submitted. Read individually at the meeting. No comments.

C.N.C.C. Technical Group: Report attached.

P.R. asked about movement in the anchors. L.S. noted there was sometimes in few cases rotational movement. He gave an explanation for this as the breakdown of the chemical bond. G.J: there might be slight movement, but it will still take a force of 34K/N to pull the P-hanger out. L.S. confirmed that the new resin doesn't shrink at all. Meeting in Ingleton on anchors. 1989: from day one, a record has been kept on all placements, and tests.

# COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

P.R./L.S./GJ: discussed anchors not placed by the C.N.C.C. (Ear Pot). L.S. stated that over 700 anchors have been placed so far.

Treasurer's Report: Written report submitted.

Went on to outline financial difficulties within the N.C.A., Increases etc..

We as a regional body should not be a tax-collector for the N.C.A.. There was a misconception that part of the club subscription to the C.N.C.C. was really to the N.C.A.. L.S./Dr.RH: discussed access, funds, etc.. in regard to the N.C.A..

ACCESS And CONSERVATION Report: Written report submitted. L.S. was up at Casterton Fell, and noticed the black route path was deteriorating. H.L. drew attention to an article in the Craven Herald, which portrayed cavers as destroying the habitat of rare plants. L.S. to be looked into. Regarding the Cave Conservation Plan, G.B. doesn't see any problems in this being done by an outside body. It being a very big job. Large systems need a plan(specific), this is a lot of hard work. R.M. noted the Knock Fell policy which has been seen as a bench-mark. G.B. No point in doing exercise unless the caves are involved: because they are the implementers of cave conservatoin.

P.R. commented on the local cave leaders scheme, which in Derbyshire is an anomaly as most of the caves involve mines. R.M./A.M. beware putting anything into writing as this commits us to sites, etc.. P.R. said that Radon is a similar topic.

R.H. thought that there were enough caves used at present, without more being added. P.R. named caves, and hazards. R.H. suggested keeping a watching brief on it. R.M. then drew attention to a letter from the W.R.C.P.C. regarding fencing of Hagg Gill Pot: payment was agreed.

Legal Officer's Report: No report was presented.

## MEETS SECRETARIES REPORTS:

Leck Fell: Written report. G.B. Boxhead Pot. L.S. the whole thing is moving: very wet. J.S. noted an increase in permits for it. G.J. said it is a superb shaft. J.H. mentioned Starting Handle Pot.

Castertoh Fell: P.M. noted an increase in mid-week permits. Also, if clubs can make requests for other entrances besides Lancaster/County. P.M./R.M. then discussed the issue of the path. This was not seen as crucial to the estate at present. R.M. wants to continue at this issue, and not let it lie. A.H. said that W.R.C.P.C. had offered to do work on fencing, but this had been turned down; part of the land management scheme. P.M. Pippikin, April/May/June-- access via Easgill route. What has happened to these negotiations? L.S. noted that it needs sorting out.

Birks Fell/Mongo Gill: Written report. Ric gave an update. Mongo Gill/Stump Cross: access agreement ends April '97. There is a new route into the Stump Cross

# COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

be arranged with the owner, who has recently bought the caving rights.

L.S. mentioned Robinson Pot, does it require a change in the handbook. Dr. R.H. said not at present.

Penyghent/Gingling/Hammer: Report read by R.M.. Dale Head Pot: still blocked. Would like help with Dale Head Pot! Penyghent Pot: still issuing permits in the closed season.

Other Area Reports: Nothing.

Applications for Membership: Nottingham Univ. Caving Club. N.C.A. members. Passed.

Applications for full-member status: None.

Constitutional Amendments: L.S. read it out. A.H. said it should be back to clubs, and not the N.C.A.. P.R. asked why Full-member clubs? L.S. suggested deleting this. R.M. asked all in favour: unanimous.

N.C.A. Reports:

Equipment: Written report, read out by L.S..

Training: Read out by P.R.. L.S. mentioned the Bury country park scheme (training tunnels, etc..). P.R. then outlined the possibilities of training programmes, events, etc.. R.M. said this could be run by clubs.

Re-structuring: G.J./P.R. discussed the position of individual leaders, etc. in the N.C.A.. L.S. then gave an update on the N.C.A. situation. J.H. asked how the N.C.A. represent cavers when they are at odds with the C.N.C.C., and the ~~Cambrian~~ <sup>CAMBRIAN C.C.</sup>. G.J./P.R. added some views on this. P.R. gave his experiences of N.C.A. meetings. Followed by a discussion on the C.N.C.C. Proposal mandate. R.M./P.R. noted that this was due to lack of communication. Pendle C.C. said that cavers are not prepared to go up, and down the country to N.C.A. meetings, hence the importance of regional representation. L.S. noted J.H.'s letter to Descent on the N.C.A. issue. Northern clubs are not prepared to pay fees to the N.C.A. to use their own caves. D.S. wondered what the repercussions of this? R.M. gave his reply. G.R. thought that the N.C.A. leaders are not the voice of cavers in Britain. L.S. said that in all this the N.C.A. leaders all tell a different story of what is going to happen. There is lots of speculation, and no definite plan. R.M. said the next meet of the N.C.A. AGM was to be on 22nd March, at Monyash, Derbyshire. L.S./P.R. thought that a lot of the N.C.A. jobs could already be done by regional councils.

Election of Officers, and Committee:

Chairman: R. Myers.



# COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Treasurer: G. Jones.

Secretary: L. Sykes.

Assistant secretary: R. Wilding (Orcus C.G.)

Access, and Conservation: J. Harland.

Assistant Conservation Officer: A. Bolton.

Training Officer: P. Ramsden.

## Current Committee:

Bradford Pothole Club.

Burnley Caving Club.

Dent House Speleological Society.

Porkey Potters Caving Club.

Northumberland Speleology Group.

Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club.

Yorkshire Ramblers Club.

Yorkshire Subterranean Society.

Any Other Business: The Bullpot Farm phone. A.H. explained the latest position.

A three-way split on the bill: R.R.C.P.C./C.R.O./ C.N.C.C..

A vote of thanks was given to all those doing work on behalf of the C.N.C.C..

## Date, and place of next meeting:

16th May 1997. Committee meeting. 8pm at Hellifield.

5th Sept. 1997. Committee meeting. 8pm at Hellifield.

5th Dec. 1997. Committee meeting. 8pm at Hellifield.

14th March 1998: AGM.

AGM Minutes taken and prepared by A. Bolton, C.N.C.C. assistant secretary.

*R. Jones*  
*Hon. Chairman*

# COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

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## Secretaries report to the 1997 C.N.C.C. AGM

Paper work still consumes a great deal of time, and this could be reduced if clubs would read the newsletters and the handbook. There has not been any areas of aggravation this year most things seem to be running very smoothly. Towards the latter part of the year the NCA needed a little more attention than I was really willing to give it, but, in the interests of our member clubs I pursued the avenues that needed pursuing, an area, of which there is still a great deal of work to be done. It is not my intention to go into details regarding the structure of the NCA, that will be covered in more detail under item 9. All I will say is that I am fully committed to the changes that the member clubs of the C.N.C.C. want.

Correspondence is dealt with as it arrives and those who provide a SAE usually have a reply within 24 hours (1st. class mail). Obviously requests for information and mail requiring a more detailed response takes a little longer.

Either the problem of thefts from cars has declined or people are not reporting them, because I have had but a handful reported to me, either by the police or the victims. The valley watch that I envisaged for the summer months did not take off, mainly because one the group who offered to help fell off his bike and injured himself, it therefore took on a solo role on odd days.

Rigging guide N<sup>o</sup>. 2 is selling well. This also consumes a great deal of time as we copy, collate and bind it ourselves. This is the cheapest method, but, unless someone is willing to spend days copying, collating and binding rigging guide N<sup>o</sup>. 3, it will have to be mass produced even if it generates waste and costs a little more. I will not have the time to spend assembling two guides. The information and drawings are well under way for the third rigging guide and it is hoped that a long dryish summer will allow us to complete more caves. Rigging guide number three will be the last rigging guide in that format. We will be producing a large northern rigging guide that will cover all the caves and potholes that contain Eco anchors. This book will be in a glossy format and contain various techniques pages, photos and all the rigging topos, we see it as the final production at the end of the installation program.

The newsletter has continued to be distributed as and when there is enough news to warrant it's production. I try and ensure that it is sent out with the minutes of meetings, the envelope bulges but we get away with it.

Membership is on the increase again, this increase is a combinations of new clubs and clubs that were members two or three years ago, and realised that they were not receiving newsletters or permits.

I have written to two companies seeking discount or sponsorship for the C.N.C.C. whether it be for the anchor re-placement program or for the C.N.C.C. in general I don't really care, in return I have offered them a full A4 page advertising in the rigging guides. To date I have had no reply, but I am hopeful.

# **COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS**

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## C.N.C.C. representative on the N.C.A. equipment committee

Surprisingly I have nothing to report, there has not been an N.C.A. equipment committee meeting since 10.02.1996. And I have not received one single communication regarding equipment from the N.C.A. This however does not affect C.N.C.C. as C.N.C.C. Technical Group has continued to research anchors and equipment, see C.N.C.C. Technical Group report.

I have submitted to the equipment committee convenor N.Williams our budgeted proposals for training for 1997, this is in respect of anchor training, re-fresher courses and a regional anchor co-ordinators workshop. I presume that these will be approved at the N.C.A. AGM

I am prepared to continue as C.N.C.C. secretary and as C.N.C.C. representative on the N.C.A. equipment committee.

Les Sykes  
Hon. secretary

# C.N.C.C. TECHNICAL GROUP

## Report to the C.N.C.C. AGM

The C.N.C.C. Technical Group has had a very active year, both above and below ground. Below ground statistics are; there was 40 caving trips where we were either installing anchors or testing anchors, this also includes trips where both activities were carried out on the same day or where different caves were worked in on the same day. Those 40 anchor re-placement and testing trips added up to 340 caver hours, spent down the following caves/potholes.

<u>CAVE</u>	<u>TRIPS</u>
Notts Pot	2
Bull Pot	2
Sell Gill Holes	2
Rumbling Hole	1
Marble Steps Pot	6
Ireby Fell Cavern	4
Lost Johns Cave	4
Deaths Head Hole	4
Jingling Pot	1
Upper Long Churn Cave	1
Calf Holes	1
Swinsto Hole	1
Dolly Tubs	1
Hardrawkin Pot	1
Sunset Hole	1
Alum Pot	2
Boxhead Pot	1
Gavel Pot	2
County Pot	1
Wretched Rabbit	1

The document, Permanent Resin Bonded Anchors, training, testing, documentation and installation guide lines was amended on 01.09.96, this was communicated to all the anchor re-placement co-ordinators in Britain, both by post and by floppy disc. Amendments were made to the installation techniques, which requires a hole of 100mm. to be drilled, whereas it used to be 90mm.

The time constraints on standard tests was also amended, this was due to the sheer numbers of anchors that are installed in northern caves and potholes (approximately 700). The amendment was done after careful analysis of tests carried out during the last 5 year period. Anchors in caves are now tested within 12 months of installation (usually within 1 month), then within 2 years and there after within every subsequent 5 year period. Individual anchors that we feel require a more frequent test, are noted on the record card and are tested within a twelve month period. This is the case with some of the anchors installed using the Hilti Hit C50 resin, as the resin has undergone slight shrinkage causing the placement to rotate slightly at about 1mm. We have tested anchors with rotational movement, the result of which required a force of 3.4Kn. to destroy the anchor placement. It is apparent that all the anchors that are reported to us as having rotational movement were those installed using the Hilti Hit C50 resin, this small number of anchor placements have signs of resin shrinkage, and as stated previously they are quite safe to use. It should be note however that this is not the only

## **C.N.C.C. TECHNICAL GROUP**

### **Report to the C.N.C.C. AGM**

cause that produces slight rotation of the anchor placement, rigging from a single anchor, instead of a 'Y' hang, produces a different directional force to that intended when the anchor was placed. However the amended method of anchor installation has taken this into account.

All the standard tests on anchor placements for 1996 were completed on time and were satisfactory.

During 1996 the expected change over from Hilti Hit C50 to Resifix 3+ went ahead, although more expensive, it is easier to work with and we do achieve more holes to the tube. Using Resifix 3+ it costs about £5.50 per anchor placement, the ironical thing is though, since we changed resins, and that was because Hilti had stopped producing it due to new EC laws, construction and engineering companies have complained about the HY50 and HY100, to this end Hilti are producing Hit C50 now on a limited basis. We have no intention to change resin.

The C.N.C.C. Technical Group has been contacted by a number of cavers, clubs and organisations from abroad requiring information on resin bonded anchors. From these enquiries there has been some positive statements, in so much as they have adopted our methods of installation and testing. Enquiries range from as far a field as New Zealand, Australia, Oman, Ireland and Canada (to name a few). The word is definitely travelling. The possibility of caving in any part of the world on Eco anchors, installed to our high standards is becoming more achievable.

The C.N.C.C. has also been approached by a resin manufacturer who is seeking our approval of their resin. I have agreed to undertake a series of tests to ascertain whether it can be used for bonding resin anchors in limestone and sandstone. All the tests will be carried out to the same rigorous high standards that we have tested previous resins to. If the resin is suitable and we do recommend it's use then I will be securing some form of donation/sponsorship for the C.N.C.C.

I have written to the B.M.C. regarding an article in 'Summit' magazine reference the failure of staples and the types of resins that they have used. I have highlighted the failings within the system of the staple, and other type anchors requiring twin parallel holes, and also the type of resin that was being used to secure the staple. It does appear that the B.M.C. does not have a formal policy on fixed anchors, and if it does, it is quite clear those who have placed staples and other dubious anchors on some climbs are out of touch with the policy of their national body.

The Technical Group has continued to maintain contact with Hilti, D.M.M. International, Exchem and Lyon equipment, this ensures that we are up to date with current tests and practises. We also have an mutual exchange policy with Hilti, DMM International and Exchem, for test on resins and anchors, as the Technical Group is the only organisation testing anchors and resins in limestone and sandstone and under water.

It is the intention to set another test bed this year, some of the tests will be undertaken in a river bed to simulate freeze/thaw conditions. It was intended to test other anchor

# C.N.C.C. TECHNICAL GROUP

## Report to the C.N.C.C. AGM

types (Petzl Collinox & Bat'inox) these are expensive and I have suggested to Lyon equipment a donation of anchors for the tests.

The Technical Group has been in contact with Lyon equipment to arrange tests for alloy carabiners, karabiners, krabs or biners. it is our intention to collect old, used krabs where their history is known and test them. Both Lyon equipment and C.N.C.C. will then publish the results.

The Technical Group has carried on the task of publishing the rigging cards, rigging guides N<sup>o</sup>. 1 & N<sup>o</sup>. 2 and the handbook. Sales of these continue to increase and still finance the anchor re-placement program (see treasurers report).

The bulk of the equipment that was purchased for the Technical Group for the furtherance of the program will be serviceable for the next 12 months. The rope bags that were purchased, however, will need to be re-placed. We will not be using the local supplier, as he charged us for repairing a bag that fell apart after only two trips.

The C.N.C.C. Technical Groups budget proposal for expenditure for the forth coming twelve months in respect of installing anchors is:

Resin	£200
Equipment bags	£60
Sundry items (brushes etc.)	£15
Total	£275

Report compiled by:  
L.Sykes & G.Jones

25/02/97

# COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

AGM - 1st MARCH 1997

## TREASURERS REPORT

### ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

The attached Accountants' Report summarises the accounts and financial transactions of the CNCC upto 31st December 1996. Whilst not intending to duplicate the accountants report, I feel it necessary to explain some items contained in the report.

### ASSETS

ITEM	COST/VALUE(£)	YEAR PURCHASED
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
260m 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 18mm drill bits	£30.00	90/92/94
2 X Yuasa l/a batteries	£22.00	1993
2 X Putsy pumps	£12.00	1990/93
2 X 2 Yuasa l/a batteries (in ammo boxes)	£52.00	1990/91
2 X Hilti resin applicators	£60.00	1990

**Debtor: £435.00**

This sum was claimed from the NCA for equipment used by the CNCC Technical Group when installing ECO Hangers and providing tuition to trainee installers during the year ending 31st Dec '96. The amount has now been received and paid into the account.

**LIABILITIES****Subscriptions Paid in Advance: £835.00.**

This sum represents subscriptions to the CNCC, from member clubs, paid in 1996, for the 1997 membership year.

**Creditors: £502.25.**

This represents the cost of the Accountants Report (£82.25), and other invoices received at the end of '96, which will be paid from the '97 accounts.

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

**INCOME** to the year end 31st December was: **£4134.32**  
and was made up of:

Subs/Grants Donations;	£1,835.38
Book Sales;	£1,610.50
Resin & hanger sales;	£467.77
Course Fees	£69.20
Interest;	£151.47

**EXPENDITURE** to the year end 31st December was: **£4,640.62**  
and was made up of amongst other things:

NCA Subscriptions;	£440.00
Stationary and printing costs;	£1,079.94
Resin and ECO hanger purchase;	£1,753.11

Note: The purchase cost of the photocopier (£916.46) is included as equipment under the Assets section.  
The figure of £1079.94 includes the bulk purchase of



printing consumables which should last at least 6 months.

**NET DEFICIT\*** **£506.30**

### **RE-BOLT PROGRAM**

The cost of the re-bolt program for 1996 was: **£2,562.36**

This includes the purchase of 400 ECO Hangers (£996.40) (200 in Feb, 200 in Sept), the surplus of which should see us through '97.

The above expenditure was offset by income generated from the Rigging Guide and the onward sale of resin and anchors: **£2,078.27**

### **Balance of the two accounts as at 31st December 1996:**

Community account: **£1041.61**

High interest account: **£5,012.12**

\*The deficit figure of £506.30 is misleading since it does not include the sum of £435.00 claimed from the NCA (for training) which has now been received. Taking this into consideration, the net deficit becomes £71.30, which, given the quantity of ECO Hangers and resin purchased this year, I do not feel to be unreasonable.

Given that the CNCC's overall operating costs are still covered by the current level of income, I can therefore see no reason to request a raise in the level of CNCC subscriptions, for member clubs, for 1998. However, the NCA subscription is set to increase at a rate of 10% per year, grants from NCA are decreasing whilst postage and administrative consumables are increasing. Even though we are looking at other methods of funding, there will inevitably be a point where we have to pass on these increases to clubs in the way of a CNCC subscription increase. Clubs should therefore anticipate that increased CNCC subscriptions could be recommended for 1999.

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

Glenn Jones, Treasurer, CNCC

The Council of Northern Caving Clubs

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1996

ASSETS

	486	Equipment		1402.73
6332		Cash at Bank	6053.73	
1430		Debtors	435.00	
-		Payments in Advance	-	
	7762			6488.73

LIABILITIES

735		Subscriptions Paid in Advance	835.00	
453		Creditors	502.25	
	(1188)			(1337.25)
	<u>7060</u>			<u>6554.21</u>

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

6902	Balance brought forward	7060.51
216	Equipment written off in previous year	-
(58)	Less Deficit for the year	(506.30)
	<u>7060</u>	<u>6554.21</u>

Accountants' Report

In accordance with instructions given to us we have prepared, without carrying out an audit, the annexed accounts from the accounting records of The Council of Northern Caving Clubs and from information and explanations supplied to us.

Sandbach

*John Greenall*

25 February 1997

Chartered Certified Accountants

Income and Expenditure Account  
for the year ended 31 December 1996

INCOME

1344	Subscriptions/Grants and Donations	1835.38
537	Handbooks and Rigging Guides	1610.50
1065	Resin and Hangers	467.77
-	Course Fees Received	69.20
173	Interest Receivable	151.47
<u>3119</u>		<u>4134.32</u>

EXPENDITURE

340	Subscriptions	440.00
204	Printing, Stationery and Handbooks	1079.94
71	Accountancy Fees	82.25
117	Repairs	312.16
33	Room Hire	24.00
1682	Resin and Hangers	1753.11
651	Telephone and Postage	542.94
48	Sundry Expenses	10.00
21	Petrol	5.50
10	Insurance	-
-	Conservation and Access	390.72
<u>3177</u>		<u>4640.62</u>
<u>(58)</u>	Deficit for the year	<u>(506.30)</u>

**THE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS**

**Conservation and Access Officer's Report to the 1997 A.G.M.**

The last twelve months have been quiet, with the majority of contacts being people seeking access information including meets secretaries' names and addresses. Thus it appears that there is still a problem with the passing on of information from club secretaries to their members.

I understand that the Casterton Fell footpath situation is making very slow progress. Very recently I had a look at the direct route to County Pot and I do not think that there has been any further deterioration except at the slope immediately above the streamway - this is in a terrible condition and I am surprised that the estate does not seem to have initiated any remedial action.

I am not aware of any other matters directly affecting access, at the moment.

The national conservation handbook is still waiting at the starting line as Graham Price wrestles with the production of the numerous appendices. Thank you to those people who have made valuable criticism and comment about these documents.

The matter of cave conservation plans is still wide open. I am worried that eventually we may have such plans procured by English Nature without regard to input from the local and national caving associations and cavers - this appears to be happening elsewhere in the country. However if there are no clubs/cavers prepared to carry out such work then so be it.

With regard to the matter of the production of a list of Northern caving sites suitable for use for Local Cave Leadership Scheme training and assessment I note that this matter has not been discussed by CNCC although I have had informal discussions with several people. The idea has arisen from a request by Dave Edwards for conservation input into the Derbyshire Cave Leader Assessment Panel. My view is that informal discussions with the LCLAP(!) concerning cave usage is acceptable but that we should not produce a written list - I am worried about the arguments that this might engender, not to mention the possible liability aspect. Perhaps the meeting might care to take a view on this matter.

I note from the minutes of the October meeting that the meeting confirmed that Ric Halliwell was confirmed as being the sole representative in dealing with the National Trust. I must say that it was very nice of the meeting to make such a decision without consulting with the officer supposedly responsible for conservation and access. I would like clarification of what the decision means - e.g. is Ric dealing with the N.T. for access to Birks Fell and caves on that land? Is he dealing with the N.T. for conservation matters for that land? Or is he supposed to deal with the N.T. for all caving matters in the North of England including the Malham area in which I have a personal interest? Please clarify the situation.

Finally I enclose a letter that I have received from my own club - WRPC - concerning the recent fencing of Pasture Gill Pot and Hagg Pot, in Langstrothdale. Whilst I am still awaiting a claim for the WRPC costs for Pasture Gill you will see from the letter that Phil Ryder is suggesting a contribution should be made to the Raisgill tenant farmer's fencing costs for Hagg Pot(not Hagg Gill Pot which has a WRPC installed lid). I have views on the matter but as the WRPC representative I might be thought to be partial and so won't comment but will ask the meeting to consider the matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P H Parker'. The signature is stylized with a large 'P' and 'H' and a cursive 'Parker'.

**P H Parker**

Conservation and Access Officer

26th February 1997

Report to the Annual General Meeting of the

C O U N C I L   o f   N O R T H E R N   C A V I N G   C L U B S

Date of meeting: 1st March 1997

The Leck Fell Access Agreement 1996/1997.

Prepared by J.M.Sloane, Leck Fell Meets Secretary.

Date of report: 12th February 1997

## I N D E X

- A. Workload, permit applications received, numbers of applications and correspondence, response times. Pages 1-2
- B. Leck Fell 1996, numbers of clubs and cavers covered by the access agreement, comparison with previous years. Pages 3-4
- C. Leck Fell 1997. Pages 4-5
- D. Concluding comments. Page 5

A. Workload, permit applications received, numbers of applications and correspondence, response time.

1.0 Since 9/3/96 a total of 105 letters have been received from member clubs in relation to applications for access permits to go caving on Leck Fell. The applications themselves spanned both 1996 and 1997, and were received as outlined below.

Table 1.

Applications for permits between 9.3.96 and 12.2.97

<u>Month/Year</u>	<u>Nos. Applications received</u>	<u>Cumulative total</u>
March '96	3	3
April '96	2	5
May '96	4	9
June '96	7	16
July '96	8	24
August '96	4	28
Sept '96	7	35
Oct. '96	10	45
Nov. '96	10	55
Dec. '96	6	61
Jan. '97	11	72
Feb. '97 (thus far)	6	76

1.1 Of the 76 applications that were received, there were 5 distinct categories.

Table 2.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Nos. of applications &amp; %</u>
A. Applications where the entirety of request could be fulfilled immediately, without problem.	44 ( 57.89% )
B. Applications where clubs had not paid CNCC subs, therefore requiring 'reminder letter' before application being dealt with.	12 ( 15.78% )
C. Applications where all or part of request could not be fulfilled due to lack of availability, so requiring the offer of alternative dates and more correspondence.	16 ( 21.05% )
D. Not on headed notepaper.	2 ( 2.63% )
E. Not members.	2 ( 2.63% )
Total	76 ( 99.98% )



In the second category, B, where no subscriptions had been paid, all the member clubs subsequently settled their outstanding subscriptions and were issued with permits, although as a result of the delay involved, one or two clubs had to settle for alternative dates to their original applications. In the third category, C, five member clubs applied for permits on particular dates that were already fully booked (weekends). While alternatives were offered in each case, these were not taken up, and nothing further was heard from the clubs involved. The remaining 11 clubs in this category accepted alternative dates for their meets. The two applications received, 'not on headed notepaper' were responded to by a reply setting out CNCC requirements - however, no further correspondence was received from these sources. The 'not member' applications were referred to the secretary.

- 1.2 In summary, therefore, of the 76 applications received, 44, or 57.89%, were dealt with by a simple two-way exchange of correspondence, however, 28, or 36.84%, required double this amount of correspondence due to either non-payment of subscriptions or lack of booking availability. Five applications, or 6.57%, of the total received, resulted in the issue of no permits at all, despite alternative dates being offered. The dates requested originally by the five member clubs involved, all fell in '96 and were, without exception, weekend dates.
- 1.3 Of the clubs and organisations requesting weekday access, there were no significant problems fulfilling applications, apart from Bank Holidays, when demand for permits, was similar to that at weekends.
- 1.4 With 105 letters received over a period of 49 weeks, this equates to an average of about two letters to be dealt with a week. This figure rose to a three letters per week during the 'busy' period, and fell to below one letter a week, when there was least demand. While this, on the face of it, might not seem particularly onerous, time also had to be spent organising a system of recording applications made by clubs for permits, to show how these have been processed and dealt with, in order that this report could be produced.
- 1.5 Applications received were dealt with as quickly as possible. Given that clubs used first class stamps on both their 'outward' and 'return' envelopes, it is estimated that a good deal will have received a response, between four and six working days of initial posting. If second class stamps were used, this may have resulted in a response time of between seven and ten days. Exceptions will include the Xmas period, when first class letters were taking up to a week to arrive, and some delay was caused by vacations and weekend caving expeditions. In relation to 1997, if a quick response is needed for an application, please avoid the first week in June and the first two weeks in August, as I shall be away.
- 1.6 As the 'bombardment rate' of applications has not been too high, this has assisted, allowing a relatively swift 'turn around' of most requests for permits, and has also prevented a 'backlog' building up. The responses to the majority of permit requests were on their way back to member clubs within a day or so of receipt. The longest a permit application was held for was about ten days, and this was a result of the need for discussion and consultations.

B. Leck Fell 1996, numbers of clubs and cavers covered by the access agreement, comparison with previous years.

2.0 Following on from the last written report submitted to the committee meeting held on 7/6/96, 59 member clubs were supplied with permits for Leck Fell, during 1996. Of these, 54 clubs had permits at weekends. The rest were weekday permits. The relevant numbers are presented below.

Table 3.

Permits issued 1996.

	<u>Weekend permits</u>	<u>Weekday</u>	<u>Total</u>
January	16	2	18
February	16	3	19
March	18	7	25
April			
May	C L O S E D     S E A S O N		
June			
July	16	1	17
August	18	3	21
September	18	8	26
October	16	5	21
November	18	2	20
December	18	9	27
	<u>154 (79.38%)</u>	<u>40 (20.61%)</u>	<u>194 (99.99%)</u>

2.1 Given these figures, it is perhaps worth speculating about the numbers of cavers actually using the fell under the access agreement. In theory, the maximum number possible during 1996 would have been 2,328. This figure is arrived at after taking into consideration the parameters set down in the access agreement itself, namely 3 cars per party. In this case, 3 cars equals a theoretical maximum of 12 cavers per permit -  $12 \times 194 = 2328$ . Over the year this would amount to an average of about 6 cavers visiting the fell each day over the year. However, after discussions with other cavers, some casual observations, and reports concerning non-use of permits, I would estimate the numbers the numbers involved as somewhat lower. Given an average number of 8 cavers per party, the total would be 1552 or about 4 cavers on the fell each day over the year. Having said this, these figures, as already stated, are essentially speculative and are not based on actual research.

2.2 When considering the information in table 3 and comparing this with statistics available for previous years, it is evident that there was a fall in the number of permits issued during 1996.

Table 4.

Permits issued '93,'94,'95,'96.

	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
January	22	21	29	18
February	22	19	25	19
March	23	23	19	25
July	21	25	19	17
August	17	18	21	21
September	17	22	21	26
October	25	25	31	21
November	24	26	29	20
December	30	36	30	27
Total	<u>201</u>	<u>215</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>194</u>

The fall in the number of permits issued between '95 and '96 (30) has not been due to a lack of applications for weekend permits, as nearly all of these were taken up. The general impression has been that fewer groups and clubs have been making use of the access agreement during the week. As far as 1996 was concerned the average number of weekend permits issued to clubs who applied, was 3 each.

C. Leck Fell 1997.

3.0 In relation to the current year, the overall situation thus far is as follows, as set out below.

Table 5.

Permits 1997.

	<u>Week-end</u>	<u>Weekday</u>	<u>Total</u>
January	15	3	18
February	16	4	20
March	20	7	27
C L O S E D      S E A S O N			
July	16	4	20
August	13	2	15
September	14	0	14
October	11	7	18
November	10	1	11
December	4	6	10
	<u>119 (77.77%)</u>	<u>34 (22.22%)</u>	<u>153(99.99%)</u>

- 3.1 To date, 119 'week-end' permits have been issued to 47 member clubs giving thus far an average of 2.53 week-end permits per club applying. As things stand, 37 week-end permits remain to be booked out during 1997 with availability from August to the end of the year. As yet, no bookings have been made for 1998.
- 3.2 Given that requests for week-end permits during 1997 began to be made over 12 months ago and considering that throughout the months that followed, demand for 1997 week-ends has grown, it is felt that overall management of the agreement has been satisfactory and clubs have not been excessive in demands for week-end access. The result is that while the majority of the 'regular' users have now been issued with most of the permits they are likely to need for this year, some week-end dates remain free and hopefully, therefore, all member clubs requesting access at week-ends can be catered for.

D. Concluding comments

- 4.0 Some member clubs still insist on applying for permits without first checking that subscriptions have been paid for the year they are requesting access. When applications have to be turned down due to non-payment of a few pounds subscriptions, this creates a good deal of the necessary work for all concerned and is very frustrating. Clubs also need to continue to be aware that when applying for a permit, it is in their interests to offer 2 or 3 alternative dates. When this is done it is invariably possible to settle and return the permit request without having to resort to further correspondence, so alternative offers can be made and considered.
- 4.1 As a final thought, I have had the offer of some space on a 'web-site' to advertise CNCC permit availability, on the internet. In the event that people consider this should be looked at more closely, I am willing to take matters up further.

Signed J.M. Sloane J.M. Sloane  
Date 12.2.97.

# Council of Northern Caving Clubs

## Meets Secretary's Report for Birks Fell & Mongo Gill

### General

This is my eighth year as access controller and I know of no problems regarding access to Birks Fell. After discussions with the National Trust they have agreed that, on a trial basis, they will grant 3 permits per year allowing access to Robinson's Pot. Discussions on the exact method of issuing the permits are still taking place but with the entrance being literally under the kitchen window of the Farm, I would prefer to run for a trial period before seeking an increase in the number of permits

The Craven Pothole Club have excavated another entrance to Stump Cross and the owners have (orally) stated that they may be willing to permit access to the Stump Cross streamway via this new entrance. The exact details of the access control are still under discussion.

Until we have written agreements in both these cases I would ask cavers to stay away at present

### Birks Fell

The National Trust have made no comment on the working of the Access agreement to date. Some of the boulders near the second pitch are moving and parties should take care in that area of the cave. For the record I have continued my predecessor's tradition of giving statistics of past years' permits. Bookings remain heavy with 27 (29) bookings already made for 1997, but this does represent 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

Average number per year for the last 10 years - 37 (39)

### Mongo Gill

Ingham and Yorke have now sold the "caving rights" relating to Mongo Gill to Gordan Hanley at Stump Cross and have therefore given the required 6 months notice of termination of the current access agreement. I was at Stump Cross last week but as yet no firm decisions have been made on future access. I am continuing discussions with Mr Hanley.

A total of 10(17) bookings have been made so far for 1997. The decrease in bookings for both last year and the current year reflects the decrease in activity by the UK Landforces Adventure Training Centre at Ripon.

1981	28	1982	39	1983	30	1984	44
1985	24	1986	28	1987	29	1988	36
1989	38	1990	38	1991	36	1992	43
1993	34	1994	36	1995	20	1996	26

Average number per year for the last 10 years - 34 (35).

*Ric Halliwell*