

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE MEETING

13 January 2024 at 9:30am

- 1.0 Apologies for absence, and verification of quorum.
- 2.0 Declaration of conflicts of interest
- 3.0 Acceptance of minutes from October Committee Meeting
(already reviewed for one month, before publication on website)
- 4.0 Matters arising (and updates) from October Committee Meeting

| OFFICER | ACTION | UPDATE |
|--------------------------|--|---------|
| Josh Y | Correct and finalise June committee minutes | |
| Jill B | Prepare and circulate October committee minutes | Done |
| Matt E/ Gary D | Review website content for clarity for all users, particularly relating to the CNCC workshops | Ongoing |
| Matt E/ Jill B | Promote a vacancy for volunteer to lead on EDI matters | Done |
| Anchor Team | Develop a long-term solution for managing steel ground anchors | Ongoing |
| <i>Adrian Turner</i> | To provide written confirmation of verbal update re YUCPC SRT training facility | Done |

5.0 OFFICER REPORTS

(Available one week prior to meeting)

- 5.1 Chair Andrew Hinde
- 5.2 Secretary Jill Bolton
- 5.3 Treasurer Pete Bann
- 5.4 Conservation Officer Kay Easton
- 5.5 Access Officer Adele Ward
- 5.6 Training Officer Ian Patrick
- 5.7 Other reports *(optional)*
inc Web Admin / PR / E&T Rep / Y&D Rep
Anchor Co-ordinator / Access Co-ordinators

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

(for discussion and/or vote)

- 6.0 Club Membership Applications (Appendix 1)
- 7.0 EDI - Inclusivity Co-ordinator (Appendix 2)
- 8.0 Individual Caver Representative (Appendix 3)
- 9.0 CNCC Name Change (Appendix 4)
- 10.0 York University SRT Grant (Appendix 5)
- 11.0 Any other business
- 12.0 Details of next meeting
AGM to be held on 16 March 2024 at 10:00am
Venue: Clapham Village Hall (Postcode LA2 8DZ)

AGM REMINDERS

CLUBS

Please submit your application to stand for the committee by 20 January. Either just a single sentence, such as "X Caving Club would like to stand for election to the CNCC Committee" - or a full-blown election address.

OFFICERS

Please submit your application to re-stand by 20 January. Again, include as much, or as little, as you wish in your statement.

(Thank you for all your hard work this year!)

APPENDIX 1
AGENDA ITEM 6.0
CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

For discussion

We have received applications to join CNCC from two clubs, to be considered at the AGM in March.

Birmingham Students Caving Club's application will be attached to the Officer Reports, prior to the January meeting.

An extract from Ulster Speleological Society and Caving Club's application is shown below. Raymond Bell (Director - Trips, Training & Equipment) is seeking a Proposer and a Secunder from existing member clubs.

Ulster Speleological Society and Caving Club

<https://www.usscc.org>

Established in 2019, USSCC has been a BCA Club since our inception. Experiencing rapid growth, we now boast almost 40 paid-up members and are looking to increase our numbers this year - impressive figures for this caving area!

Our club organizes trips every other weekend, alternating between horizontal and SRT trips to cater to all abilities. Additionally, we arrange activities such as cave clean-ups, midweek or mid-month trips, family caving excursions, and free trips for youth to foster future interest in caving in the area.

As a highly active club, we focus on expanding our membership and acquiring a new caving hut for the Fermanagh region in the coming years. Our membership includes individuals from all over Northern Ireland (UK) and Ireland, welcoming participants from all parts of the UK and beyond. In addition to our regular trips, we conduct several training days and evenings for our members to practice BCA best practices for SRT and group leading, ensuring the safety of all participants while caving.

The club is very conscious of our environmental and conservation impact, with members undertaking significant cave clean-ups and projects.

We anticipate that CNCC membership will help us stay informed about events and the best training opportunities within the Northern caving region. Joining CNCC will allow us to align with best practices by participating in the excellent training events organized by CNCC.

One of our members has visited the Yorkshire area multiple times in the past year and has introduced another member to the Yorkshire caving area. Now, our club has planned a trip with several members heading to Yorkshire after the new year. We intend to visit Yorkshire and surrounding areas more frequently in the future to explore this wonderful caving area just a short distance away from Northern Ireland.

APPENDIX 2

AGENDA ITEM 7.0

INCLUSIVITY CO-ORDINATOR

For discussion and vote

At the October meeting, the Committee agreed that we should look for a volunteer to take on the role of co-ordinating "Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity" matters. Josh White has kindly agreed to apply, and has provided the following statement:

STATEMENT FROM JOSH WHITE

It feels strange to have been approached to apply for a role as 'Inclusivity Co-ordinator' as a straight, white, middle class, ambulant male (albeit with very minor neurodivergence), but I do feel I have the experience and skill set to fulfil this role.

Previously as BCA Youth & Development Representative, I looked to encourage a team of people around me with the enthusiasm and specific skills to undertake projects under the Y&D banner. This is a blueprint I would look to replicate if co-opted into this position, taking the figurehead role, and enabling and encouraging those with the skills to do some great work.

My day job is as a tutor at a residential activity centre aimed at getting the disabled and disadvantaged into the outdoors. This obviously comes with positives for this role but also its own conflict of interest. During my time on BCA council, I have put forward proposals where this conflict of interest would be an issue, and believe myself to have acted honourably in all instances, and presume that this has been taken into account already prior to me being approached. There may be instances where I have to draw a line in what I can contribute to prevent crossover from this day job.

For full transparency, I am still involved in BCA Youth & Development, I'm a YSS member and I am the current BCA insurance manager.

APPENDIX 3

AGENDA ITEM 8.0

INDIVIDUAL CAVER REPRESENTATIVE

For discussion and vote

At the 2023 AGM, it was suggested that the Independent Caver Representative may no longer need to be a BCA member, and that this requirement could be removed at the next AGM.

ME (YCC) has suggested a possible alternative for Section 5(c) of the Constitution, to put forward to the AGM.

Current wording

The Committee may, only if there is an eligible applicant at the election, also include one additional member whose role it is to represent individual cavers undertaking trips outside of a club structure (known herein as the Individual Caver (IC) representative). The IC representative must be an individual member of the BCA, and has one vote on the Committee.

Amended wording

The Committee may, only if there is an eligible applicant at the election, also include one additional member whose role it is to represent individual cavers undertaking trips outside of a club structure (known herein as the Individual Caver (IC) representative). The IC representative is one individual who has one vote on the Committee.

As a point of information, the IC representative has the right to send a substitute, if they are unable to attend a meeting either in person, or via Zoom.

SECTION 8(f)

The IC representative should ideally deliver their vote personally and should represent the interests of those caving independently outside of a club structure. The IC representative may nominate a substitute in the event they cannot attend a meeting.

APPENDIX 4

AGENDA ITEM 9.0

CNCC NAME CHANGE

For discussion and vote

The June committee meeting had a brief discussion on a suggestion from JJ to change the name from "Council of Northern Caving Clubs" to "Council of Northern Cavers & Clubs". He explained this would better reflect the inclusive nature of the CNCC, and give a more accurate impression when dealing with other bodies.

After an even briefer discussion at the October committee meeting, this item was deferred to the next meeting for more detailed consideration, including the legal, financial and administrative implications.

IP suggested keeping the same name, but adding a strap-line, such as: "CNCC - Working for all Northern Cavers".

The topic was even referred to on the UK Caving Forum, where "Relict" suggested the name "Council of the Northern Caving Community".

The committee may wish to consider these (and any other suggestions) and may wish to propose a vote.

APPENDIX 5

AGENDA ITEM 10.0

YORK UNIVERSITY SRT GRANT

For information only

The Secretary submitted a grant application, on behalf of York University CPC, to be considered at the BCA Council meeting on 5 December. The outcome will be circulated once known, and included in the Officer's Reports.

GRANT REQUEST ON BEHALF OF YORK UNIVERSITY CAVE & POTHOLE CLUB

The CNCC wishes to apply for a grant of £1835 to enable the immediate restoration of the SRT training facility, based at York University Sports Centre. It is currently out-of-action, awaiting certain improvements and inspection.

The YUCPC had originally hoped to restore the full facility, using both the girders and the walls (at a cost of £5290) but are now looking to reinstate just the girders (at a lower cost of £2235).

This was discussed at length in the CNCC committee meeting on 21 October, where there was strong support for the project.

The CNCC currently have a surplus of approximately £4000, above the normal day-to-day cash flow requirements. However, it was felt by members (and by officers) that it would not be prudent to fund the project in full. Some of this surplus is already earmarked for another "non-BCA fundable" initiative that we are currently launching. Using such a large proportion of our available funds for the benefit of one club would be very unfair on other member clubs.

Nevertheless, as a gesture of support, the committee voted to award a grant of £400, on condition that the BCA were minded to fund the balance required.

The presence of funds in the York University Students Union accounts is currently the limiting factor in APEX commencing the work. The university will not even discuss dates for the work until proof of funds is provided, and that is why we are asking for a clear decision at this meeting.

Any delay is likely to "lose" the current intake of freshers, with ongoing consequences for several years.

We therefore request that the BCA considers making a grant of £1835 in order that the training facility can be re-opened promptly.

If a decision is made at this meeting, the CNCC will immediately transfer £2235 to York University Students Union, before requesting reimbursement of £1835 (being the full amount, less the CNCC grant of £400) from the BCA.