

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Agenda for Committee Meeting 17th June 2021, 7:00 pm

- 1) Apologies for absence.
- 2) Acceptance of minutes from the January Committee meeting (these have already been through the one-month review process before being made public on the website).
- 3) Any matters arising or updates on action items from the January Committee meeting?

Reminder of action items from January meeting (with update in red where status known):

Individual(s)	Action item
Josh Y	Finalise October Committee Minutes Done
Tim A	Write to National Park Authority regarding caving access at High Birkwith. Action postponed until end of Covid restrictions
Kay E/Andrew H	Arrange conservation work at Starting Handle Pot. Action postponed until end of Covid restrictions
Matt E	Get in touch with Tony B, and perhaps put together an article on Bowland.
JY	Once GD has formatted all of Simon Wilson's anchor content, JY to contact Simon to get his permission to publish it on the CNCC website. Ongoing
JY	Email the BCA Secretary to suggest the BCA revisit the issue of paying professional training providers for their services. Done
JY	JY to advise installers to use an official booking date when installing anchors in Robinson's Pot. Done

4) Reports (will be made available approx. one week before meeting)

- i. Chairman's report - Andrew Hinde
- ii. Secretary's report- Josh Young
- iii. Treasurer's report - Position Vacant
- iv. Conservation Officer's report- Kay Easton
- v. Access Officer's report - Position Vacant
- vi. Training Officer's report - Ian Patrick

vii. Other reports (optional): Webmaster/PR & Comms/E&T rep/Y&D rep/Anchor Coordinator

viii. Meets Secretaries reports (optional)

5) Confirmation of co-opted positions and representatives

This agenda item is a discussion and vote on whether to endorse the continuation of each of these co-opted positions, and an opportunity for anyone else interested in performing one of these roles to come forward.

Stump Cross / Robinson's / Birks Fell / Fairy Holes Access Co-ordinator - Ric Halliwell

Excalibur Access Co-ordinator - Matt Ewles

Bowland Access Co-ordinator - Tony Brown

Webmaster - Gary Douthwaite

Anchor Co-ordinator - Alan Speight

PR & Communications Officer - Matt Ewles

Representative to the BCA Council and AGM - Position Vacant

Representative to the BCA E&T Committee - Mark Richards

Representative to the BCA Access and Conservation Committee - Kay Easton

Representative to the BCA Youth & Development Committee - Position Vacant

Representative to the BCA Training Committee - Ian Patrick

Online Booking Co-ordinator - Position Vacant

6) Appointment of Acting Treasurer

Former CNCC treasurer Pete Bann has kindly agreed to fill the role of Treasurer until at least the next AGM. I propose that the committee appoint Pete as Acting Treasurer.

Josh Young, Secretary

7) Birks Fell Access

Item submitted by Matt Ewles:

Over Tim's time as Access Officer, largely thanks to his determination and efforts, we have made enormous strides forward in improving access to the major fells. This has been possible partly thanks to the backing of CRoW, and the interpretation of our National Body that caving on CRoW land is allowed, thus giving us the confidence to step away from the antiquated arrangements we used to facilitate, and to put forward a more modern compromise. With Tim having stepped down, it would be a shame to see this work stop, although without an Access Officer, it may be difficult to progress.

One site which members of my club are particularly fond of is Birks Fell Cave. This cave is situated on Access Land, is approached via a well-used public footpath, which is only departed from for 300m only once on Access Land. Therefore, anyone can access Birks Fell Cave without trespassing and without needing permission. With the CNCC and BCA having taken such a progressive attitude to caving under CRoW over recent years, it seems unsustainable for us to continue to support a permit system requiring significant advanced notice (which prevents last minute trips) and closed seasons.

Furthermore, it would be great to see Birks Fell appreciated by more cavers, because it really is awesome. Supporting cavers to exploit a dry day with an impromptu trip would be great.

I would like to ask the Committee what they feel should be the way forward with Birks Fell Cave, and to hear from those who are most knowledgeable about the situation there (particularly Ric, and our Wharfedale experts). The access agreement is with National Trust, however there is also a tenant farmer at Redmire Farm with who sustained good relations are desirable, so this is not as simple as just walking away from the agreement and declaring open season. But equally, I don't feel CNCC can, or should, be supporting the status quo for much longer, as it is wholly against our current access principles. An open and informed discussion amongst the CNCC Committee would be a great start, and perhaps by June we can have persuaded someone to take on a co-opted role of Acting Access Officer to help us pursue this.

8) Date and time of next meeting

Committee Meeting Thursday 14th October 2021, on Zoom, 07:00 pm.

9) Any other business?