

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at Ingletton on 18th June 1977

Attendance The following clubs were represented:-

Bradford P.C., Gritstone C., Bolton S.C., Salford U.C.P.C., Cambridge C.C.C., White Rose P.C., Yorkshire Sub. S., Red Rose C.P.C., Craven P.C., Furness U.G., Northern Expl.G., North Manchester C.C., Northern Pennine C., Preston C.C., Whernside Manor, Michelin C.C., Earby P.C., Burnley C.C., Kendal C.C.

Apologies had been received from:- G. Hudson YSS, D. Leonard ULSA, J. Sheldon QLRCPC, Buxton S.G., and Vibram M.C.

Officers Reports had been previously circulated. The following comments relate to these reports:-

i. Chairman's Report - re. Weather forecast service; it was pointed out that a local forecast could be obtained in the Lake District, by telephone, from the National Park Centres. Although Whernside Manor continued to offer their interpretation of the radio forecast, it was suggested that the matter be raised again with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Officers with a view to a service similar to that in the Lakes, this being of benefit to walkers and cavers alike.

ii. Secretary's Report - re. National Park Plan; comments had been submitted but no indication as to whether these were adopted.

A scientific survey of caves, cave entrances and hydrological links had been proposed by the National Park (see minutes of Committee Meeting 18.6.77)

iii. Treasurer's Report - the Treasurer pointed out that this year the Council had an excess of income over expenditure of £88, rather than a loss of £8, as last year. Postage costs had risen by £10. It was proposed by M. K. Lyon and seconded by R. Wood that an auditor be appointed for next year. The motion was approved and the committee empowered to appoint an auditor. Re. subscriptions; it was pointed out that a previous AGM had empowered the Committee to raise subscriptions to (up to) £4 as and when necessary. Only a few clubs were still in arrears with subscriptions.

Meets Secretaries' Reports - previously circulated.

i. Leek/Casterton. E. Acland pointed out the undertaking of the meets secretary for this area, having to deal with over 400 permits per year. He suggested a possible split into two areas with the appointment of another meets secretary. P. Llewellyn stated that he was willing to continue as at present, but would bear the suggestion in mind if the workload became too much.

ii. Pen y gent/Gingling. I. Wilkinson reported that 25 permits had been granted for Gingling Hole. Worth Valley C.C. had written to Mr. Coates declining to use their permit due to weather conditions. Being impressed by their sensible attitude he offered the club an alternative date.

iii. Birks Fell/Mongo Gill - nothing to report.

Conference on Working Party Report - Future of NCA

D. Mellor suggested that CNCC should take a 'back seat' with regard to this conference.

M. K. Lyon expressed support for the work of the Special Committees and suggested that, whatever the outcome of the conference, these committees should continue, as they were doing valuable work.

It was proposed by M. K. Lyon and seconded by B. Smith that the Council should merely observe the proposals made at the conference by other bodies, and that

the Committee to be instructed to act on these accordingly, in the best interests of the Council.

Officers for 1977/78

<u>Chairman</u>	R. Coe (CPC)	proposed KCC	seconded BPC
<u>Secretary</u>	B. Smith (BPC)	proposed KCC	seconded CPC
<u>Treasurer</u>	J. Clegg (BSC)	proposed BPC	seconded KCC
<u>Asst. Secretary</u>	A. Beecroft (EPC)	proposed KCC	seconded BSC

Eight other full member clubs were required to complete the committee:

Kendal C.C.	proposed CPC	seconded BPC
Yorkshire Sub. S.	proposed KCC	seconded Mullard
White Rose P.C.	proposed BPC	seconded FUG
Salford Univ. C.P.C.	proposed BSC	seconded RRCP
Gritstone C.	proposed EPC	seconded BPC
Furness U.G.	proposed CPC	seconded KCC
Red Rose C.P.C.	proposed BPC	seconded CCCC
Burnley C.C.	proposed GC	seconded FUG

There were no other nominations for the Officers and Committee Clubs, all the above were appointed.

Furness U.G. expressed disappointment that clubs from N.E. England were not well represented at the AGM, and hence not on committee.

Any Other Business

The following items were referred from the previous Committee meeting:

1. NCA Reports
  - i. Executive Meetings - B. Smith had attended.
  - ii. Conservation and Access - R. Sutcliffe had attended these meetings, a gave a brief report on their work so far. He pointed out that a revision of Sites of Special Importance was to be carried out, which would involve the Council.

iii. Equipment - P. Ramsden had attended four meetings. Various reports had been issued e.g. Equipment Information, Equipment Failure and an Equipment Supplies List. Information was required from cavers to keep these up to date. They had contacted foreign associations e.g. NSS, FFS, etc. regarding equipment. P. Ramsden and A. Eavis had met with representatives from British Standards Institution regarding a B.S. for caving ropes. FUG commented that they found the Failure Reports informative.

- iv. Novice Training - M. K. Lyon had attended meetings. They had tried to produce standard advice on caving for bodies becoming involved with caving, but with little real knowledge e.g. the D.E.S., schools, etc.

Their emphasis had been placed on the need not to push young people unwillingly into this activity, and they expressed some concern over the caving activities of some outdoor centres. They had produced a standard advice sheet on University caving (at the request of one university). M. K. Lyon expressed the desire to see one body concerned with all aspects of training (e.g. rescue, techniques, etc.) rather than just novice, possibly including the CLTB.

2. Thefts of caving tackle - seemingly associated with thefts from parked cars in general, rather than directed specifically against cavers.
3. Ireby Fell Cavern - Whernside Manor would inspect and report to Committee.
4. Insurance - several clubs expressed interest, but doubted the value of an insurance offering £1,000 on death or loss of limb, etc. The Treasurer would make further enquiries.

5. Lancaster/Easegill - a member club, Durham University S.A. - had been reported as having driven vehicles onto Casterton Fell. It was agreed that the Secretary should write to the club concerned expressing strong disapproval of such activities. As D.U.S.A. were in arrears with subscriptions, it would be pointed out to them that, should they wish to re-apply for membership, they would need to obtain the support of two member clubs, and that the incident would be taken into account when considering their application.

It was reported that there was an increase in the number of visits being made to caves in Casterton Cell by unbooked parties, some of whom may not even be members of the Council. It was agreed that a cleaver sign at Bull Pat Farm could help, but the responsibility to "warn off" clubs without permits lay with those with permits, who met them in such situations.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Council of Norther Caving Clubs

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, June 18th 1977

First of all, I am delighted to report that since the last A.G.M. the Council has regained much of the respect and credibility it once enjoyed, largely due to the efforts of its principal officers - the Secretary and two Treasurers - the Meets Secretaries and the members of the Committee. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking them most sincerely on your behalf. We believe it is essential to preserve our Northern Caving scene, that we have a strong and thriving Council and it is our continued intention to achieve just that.

We have been successful in putting the financial affairs of the Council in order, thanks to the untiring efforts of Jim Wilcock and the secretariat and meets permissions are now running smoothly due to the efficiency of Brian Smith and the area secretaries.

We have not been entirely successful in every sphere - we have lost the local weather forecasting service due to disinterest on behalf of other outdoor organisations who benefitted just as much as the caving fraternity but who were not prepared to pay their share.

The National Parks Committee also failed to support your Council in its efforts to retain the service. This does not necessarily mean that the service has gone forever and, should this meeting feel the service should be re-instated then your new Committee and Officers will, I am sure, continue their efforts in that direction.

I personally, have been short of time, as usual, however, I have chaired most of the Committee meetings, conducted a successful and friendly meeting with Lord Shuttleworth and Col. Bowring, and attended the Annual Dinner of the U.W.F.R.A. as chief guest on behalf of the Council. My business interests take me abroad increasingly and I am quite prepared now to stand down should there be another candidate for the Chairmanship. Equally, I am prepared to stand for another year.

Randal Coe.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

### Council of Northern Caving Clubs AGM June 18th 1977

The Council now has 115 members. Of these 27 are Full Members. Of the Associate Members, 33 are members of other Regional Councils and 25 are school, college or university clubs.

During the year there have been 6 committee meetings which have been well attended. Problems relating to access have remained a priority, and thanks to the efforts of our Meets Secretaries, improved access has been gained in certain areas.

Perhaps one of the most important documents affecting the future of caving in the Dales - the Draft Copy of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Plan - was published this year. Although caving has been reasonably well presented in this report, due largely to the efforts of M. K. Lyon and E. Acland, certain inaccuracies and omissions were evident, and comments were submitted to the National Park Officer. These were largely concerned with the poor standard of the caving and geological maps, the omission of important speleological areas from the Park itself, and the need to stress the recreational importance of caves as well as their scientific importance.

CNCC continues to be well represented with NCA, with R. Sutcliffe attending meetings of the Conservation and Access Group, P. Ramsden on the Equipment Committee and M. K. Lyon as Convenor of the Novice Training Committee.

As Secretary of CNCC I have attended both NCA Executive Meetings in Derbyshire and Mendip. A week after our own AGM I will be attending the third in S. Wales, along with the Conference to discuss the Working Party Report on the Future of NCA. This report was circulated to all Member Clubs some time ago, and it is to be hoped that constructive suggestions and any constitutional changes thought necessary as a result of the report will be put forward at our AGM so that your representatives are fully acquainted with Northern club's views.

To conclude my report, a few statistics - during this my first year as CNCC Secretary, 21 clubs applied successfully, for Associate Membership, 3 Associate Members gained Full Membership and I have answered well over 100 enquiries, ranging from how a club gains membership of CNCC, to which is the best caving club to join!

Brian J. Smith, May 1977.

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Income and Expenditure Record 1.4.76 - 31.3.77  
(Current Account)

<u>Income</u>	<u>This Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Subscriptions	319 . 00	153 . 00
Sales of Access Book	. 60	. 20
Grants (N.C.A.)	134 . 60	85 . 00
Donations	2 . 50	---
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£456 . 70	£238 . 20
 <u>Less Expenditure</u>		
Met Office	---	37 . 91
Room Hire	2 . 00	2 . 00
Travel Expenses	---	4 . 40
Insurance	35 . 00	31 . 36
NCA Subs	50 . ---	40 . 00
Lancs Sports Fed	1 . 00	1 . 00
Yorks Sports Fed	3 . 00	2 . 00
Printing & Stationary	110 . 50	94 . 02
Secs. Expenses	16 . 62	---
Chairman's Expenses	1 . 47	---
Meets Secs Expenses	19 . 61	3 . 91
Treasurer's Expenses	21 . 17	---
Access Agreements	---	. 10
Phone & Postage	---	14 . 48
N.C.A. AGM	---	8 . 10
White Scar Publicity	---	7 . 38
To Deposit Account	100 . 00	---
Bank Charges	1 . 90	---
Refunds	3 . 00	---
Balancing Adjustment	2 . 51	---
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	367 . 78	246 . 66
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>£88 . 92</u>	<u>£ 8 . 46</u>

CNCC MONETARY BALANCE SHEET

Note: Due to the interest from the Deposit Account having been shown as an Income on the Income/Expenditure Account and also on the Balance Sheet adjustments have had to be made to Previous Years Figures to obtain a true picture of the Councils Accounts. This adjustment revealed a deficit of £2.51 dating back to before 1974 which has been added to the Expenditure for 1976/77 to balance the Accounts up.

(See Income and Expenditure Record Sheet 1.4.76 - 31.3.77)

Balance @ 31.3.74	119 . 76
Deficit 1974/75	24 . 29
	<hr/>
	95 . 47
Balance @ 31.3.75	95 . 47
Deficit 1975/76	8 . 46
	<hr/>
	87 . 01

Balance @ 31.3.76	87 . 01
Surplus 1976/77	<u>88 . 92</u>
	<u>175 . 93</u>

Current Account	
Bank Balance at 31.3.77	<u>£175 . 93</u>

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Balance at 31.3.76	113 . 04
Interest 1.4.76 - 31.3.77	8 . 33
From Current Account 2.2.77	100 . 00
	<u>121 . 37</u>
BALANCE AT 31.3.77	<u>£221 . 37</u>

I have checked this account of the financial affairs of CNCC with the books and other records made available to me. The account presented is a fair summary of these records. I would however consider CNCC well advised to obtain the services of a professional auditor to assist in the presentation of future accounts.

M. K. Lyon.

BALANCE SHEET AND RECORD SHEET PREPARED BY:	J. J. Clegg
	Hon. Treasurer
	CNCC
	1st May 1977

## MEETS SECRETARY'S REPORT

### RIBBLESDALE AREA 1976/77

There have been no major problems during the year other than the increase in the number of permits issued, with many clubs booking up to 12 months in advance.

#### Penygent

Very heavy bookings for Dale Head Pot and Penygent Pot as usual, but a lot of interest has been shown in Hunt and the Hull Posts.

The Gamekeeper Mr. G. Perfect, wishes it to be restated that all permits must be handed in at his cottage at Brackenbottom, Horton-in-Ribblesdale, before proceeding onto the fell.

#### Fountains Fell

Access to Ginglyng Hole started the year in a cloud of doubt, with the possibility of a charge being levied by the farmer. This did not evolve, fortunately, and access has in fact become easier, with no maximum number of meets (per year) being laid down. Requests for permits are still required by the 1st February for the list to be approved by the farmer.

Ian Wilkinson, May 1977

## LECK & CASTERTON FELL MEETS SECRETARY'S REPORT 1976/77

This has been my first year as Meets Secretary for Leck and Casterton Fells, and since my appointment in June have issued 415 permits. I have been surprised at the number of mid-week trips being made, as there have been several occasions on either fell when visits have been made every day of the week.

### Casterton Fell

As members are aware, increased access has now been obtained which has eased the situation. Up to three clubs are now permitted on the fell, one down Lancaster, one using an Easegill entrance and one down Bull Pot. Alternatively if Lancaster Hole is unbooked, two clubs down Easegill. I have tried wherever possible to fit clubs in, and Meets Secretaries can help by stating that they wish to book County, Pool Sink, etc. rather than simply Easegill. To some extent discretion is used if given alternative dates, to avoid over crowding down County Pot.

### Leck Fell

The present Lord Shuttleworth would appear to be more understanding than his father towards potholers on his land, and I expect the Council to continue to press for increased access to the fell, particularly during the close season. The new Lord Shuttleworth employs a farm manager instead of a gamekeeper to look after his interests, there no longer being quite the same value put on the shooting as there has in the past.

While there is an increasing trend by certain elements to kick against any authority, particularly the CNCC, I hope by efficient management of our Council we can maintain the co-operation of member clubs. Certainly my job has been greatly assisted by the efficiency of other Committee members, particularly of our Secretary Brian Smith and the respective treasurers, Jim Wilcock and Jeff Clegg.

Pete Llewellyn  
29th April 1977