

# COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

## British Caving Association

### Agenda for Annual General Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021, on Zoom, 10:00am

**Reminder: Representatives will not be permitted to vote during the meeting, unless the Secretary has received authentication identifying the individual as the accepted voting representative of the club. This can be in the form of a letter signed by a club officer, or an email from an official club officer's account. This should be provided electronically to the Secretary in advance of the meeting.**

- 1) Apologies for absence.
- 2) Applications for full membership: No applications received this year.
- 3) Acceptance of minutes from the 2020 AGM (draft available on website).
- 4) Any matters arising or updates on action items from the 2020 AGM.

#### **Reminder of action items from 2020 AGM (with update in red where status known):**

Individual(s)	Action item
Josh Y	Finalise 2019 AGM Minutes <b>Done</b>
Ric H	Make enquiries regarding the Skipton museum exhibit & report back to June meeting. <b>Done. Ric reported that work there is ongoing, but there are plans to include some pieces of equipment donated by CPC, alongside audio recordings of interviews with several CPC members.</b>
Tim A	Get some framed caving photos costed up, & report back to June meeting. <b>Done. Tim reported that someone with an A3 printer offered to print the images, so CNCC will only need to pay for frames. Tim suggested that the newly co-opted PR and Communications officer would be better able to discuss the matter further.</b>

5) Officer reports Reports (to be online approximately one week before the meeting).

- i. Chairman's report
- ii. Secretary's report
- iii. Treasurer's report
- iv. Conservation Officer's report
- v. Access Officer's report
- vi. Training Officer's report
- vii. Any other reports received

6) Election of CNCC Committee for the year 2021-2022

The CNCC requires between 10-14 clubs to comprise the Committee. All full member clubs were asked to provide notification of their intention to stand for Committee by the 23rd January deadline (a requirement of the constitution). Notifications are shown in **Appendix A** along with supporting statements. No application has been received for the Individual Caver (IC) Representative.

7) Election of CNCC Officers for the year 2021-2022

- a. Chair
- b. Secretary
- c. Treasurer
- d. Conservation Officer
- e. Access Officer
- f. Training Officer

Notifications are shown in **Appendix B** along with statements.

8) Dales Dye Tracing Data

The following suggestion was received from Graham Proudlove and Phil Murphy:

"It is well known that cavers have placed dyes, and other chemical tracing agents, in sinking streams in the Dales in order to determine which resurgence is fed by that sink. This has been carried out, with increasing levels of sophistication, since about 1890. Many, but not all, of these dye traces have been published but, as far as we know, there has never been an attempt to pull all the records together in one place. Phil Murphy, Paul Monico and other cavers have already provided data to enable this. These data are built into an Excel Table where so far 450 traces are detailed. A searchable web front-end, to enable open access to the data, is being developed and this needs to be mounted. The most obvious place for this is the CNCC web site which already

has numerous useful tools for Dales cavers. We are requesting that CNCC provides the means to mount this dye tracing database and also the means to update it as more data become available.”

Graham has offered to attend the meeting to answer any questions, to help the committee decide whether to take up their suggestion.

#### 9) COVID-19

This is an opportunity for any discussion relating to the ongoing pandemic and its impact on caving in our region. Member clubs may wish to discuss how their club has been affected, and whether there is anything the CNCC can do to provide support.

#### 10) BCA Event in the Dales

Russell Myers, acting Chair of the BCA, has sent a letter to the CNCC detailing plans for a BCA event coinciding with a Large Pot to Top Sink traverse attempt. This letter is available alongside this agenda. This is an opportunity for member clubs to discuss this suggestion and how the CNCC should respond. There has already been some discussion among the officers, which is summarised in the bullet points below.

- There is little potential benefit from these events being linked. All going well, the traverse will be a major achievement for those completing it and the caving community will be happy for them, but this would be just the same without an accompanying surface event. It would still be possible to take advantage of positive publicity in the event of a success, by submitting write-ups and photographs to the media. Taking place a year after all restrictions are lifted (if all goes well) it's unlikely to be a key turning point which kickstarts caving after Covid.
- An event would put undue pressure on those attempting the traverse to push through even if they may not be ready or things don't feel right, increasing the potential for mistakes. This includes the necessity for setting a date, relying on good weather, making bookings, negotiating access, etc. Added media attention could make things much worse for PR if things go wrong not just with the main dive, but also if a CRO callout is required, no matter how minor, for any of the smaller trips going on throughout the Ease Gill system.
- We support the individuals pursuing this project and would be more than happy to assist where appropriate, such as access negotiations with landowners. We are confident that these individuals would have no difficulties recruiting plenty of volunteers to assist in this attempt without interference from CNCC/BCA. We also see no issue with the BCA deciding to assist financially if they so choose.
- We also support the BCA's enthusiasm to revitalise caving and to put an event on, and Bull Pot Farm would be an excellent venue for such an event. However, we believe that such an event would be better focused on just good sporting caving, walks, beer, music etc (Eurospeleo type stuff) which is accessible to everyone, rather than on an epic project which would no doubt exclude participation for many people.

## 11) Proposal for Constitutional Amendment

The following constitutional amendments have been put forward to the AGM:

### **Correcting Errors, submitted by Josh Young**

These are minor changes which simply fix errors and ensure the constitution is self-consistent.

Change to section 7;c;(vi): "If there are between ten and thirteen *fourteen* eligible club applicants after voting, a Committee with this number of clubs will be formed. If there are fewer than ten eligible club applicants, those applicants which are eligible will be elected and voting will be repeated with the remaining applicants."

Change to section 9;l: "Minutes of General Meetings shall be taken, and should include as a minimum the items presented in 8h *l*. A draft should be reviewed by the (incoming) Secretary and anyone he/she deems necessary to help ensure their accuracy, clarity, brevity and completeness. The final draft minutes should be made available to all full member clubs and the IC representative as soon as possible, and these should be confirmed at the next General Meeting."

### **Meets Secretaries, submitted by Tim Allen**

Renaming Meets Secretaries to "Area Access Coordinators" and updating the description of the role. This is an administrative change bringing the constitution in line with current practice that will serve us in good stead for the future of these roles.

Section 10;d to be changed to: "The Committee shall appoint Area Access Coordinators as necessary to facilitate visits to caves and potholes in accordance with access arrangements and/or as directed by the Committee."

(Original text: "The Committee shall appoint Meets Secretaries as necessary to issue permits to visit caves and potholes covered by the agreements, in accordance with the stipulated conditions and in accordance with the Committee's instruction.")

Section 10;e to be changed to: "Area Access Coordinators shall be considered as co-opted officers."

(Original text: Meets Secretaries shall be considered as co-opted officers.")

## 12) Approving CNCC Anchors

The following proposal was submitted by Ian Patrick:

To allow routes which have had non CNCC "approved" resin bonded stainless steel anchors installed to be retrospectively added to the "approved" list and therefore be shown on the official rigging topos etc. Only routes meeting the criteria set out below can be considered.

There are not many routes / caves that this would apply to, but it would be helpful to bring these "onboard" without having to pull out perfectly suitable anchors and replace them with IC anchors. A couple of examples are Dale Head pot, Bar Pot big pitch alternative, SE aven alternative. A

general request for further known locations would help ensure we can bring all suitable anchors onto the CNCC database.

We have 30+ years of experience in working with resin bonded stainless steel anchors to draw upon to support this proposal and furthermore we have precedent for believing that their condition can be evaluated by a more superficial inspection.

Criteria:

1. Only routes that currently have the anchors installed can be considered. No routes created in the future can be considered for adoption. **(See note 1)**

2. Approval of historic anchors installed outside of the scheme can only be done following an actual site visit by an approved installer and submission of a written report to the CNCC Committee detailing the location, type and condition of the anchors in question.

Subsequent CNCC Committee approval would help create added confidence and reassurance. **(See note 2).**

**Note 1:** This proposal is to help deal with the small number of caves and routes that are already installed with resin bonded stainless steel anchors that were fitted outside the “official” scheme. It is not to bypass the current system of getting approval for anchor installation within caves.

**Note 2:** Anchor installers have built up a degree of knowledge about anchor installations and what to look for. The CNCC also have an “anchor pull tester” available if the installer thinks it is required. Whilst they have no “official” qualifications for approving existing anchors, this would seem the best way to put a control on retrospective “approval”

### 13) Anchor projects for approval

#### **Mayday Hole**

Suggested by Mark Sims: “It is a recent discovery on Dowlass Moss, currently 130 m deep, and certainly worthy of having resin anchors installed.”

#### **Diccan Pot**

Suggested by Ian Patrick: “*Diccan Pot has received numerous reports to CNCC (also anecdotally) regarding the condition and position of some of the anchors.*”

*Myself and Graham Coates had a trip to investigate and fully check the cave.*

*We found a few loose anchors and also anchors that were positioned in such a way that they could potentially cause a safety issue. Some of the anchor positions also don't give the optimal position to avoid the water.*

*There was also an abundance of old metal work and anchors from the past which look unsightly.*

*We would like authorisation from the committee to carry some update works to improve the rigging situation.*

*More importantly we would look to tidy up and remove as many of the defunct anchors as possible. The aim would be to leave the cave in a much “cleaner” state and with rigging that matches the standard of the majority of the other CNCC anchor installed caves.*

*Attached are some details from the “inspection” and some outline proposals for the works.*

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/cNEhVd6h7phCp6Wg9>

*We would produce a report for the committee of the works carried out.”*

14) Dates for the coming year.

Suggested dates for 2021-2022 meetings are presented below for discussion (and if necessary, revision). In particular, it should be decided whether it is in the committee’s best interests for committee meetings to continue taking place in the evening.

Committee Meetings:	Thursday 24th June 2021, 7:00pm
	Thursday 14th October 2021, 7:00pm
	Thursday 13th January 2022, 7:00pm

Annual General Meeting:	Saturday 26th March 2022, 10:00am
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15) Any other business?

## Appendix A: Committee Elections

The. 2020-2021 Committee and their figures for Committee meeting attendance:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Meetings with voting reps present (out of 3)</u>
Bradford Pothole Club	3
Craven Pothole Club	3
Earby Pothole Club	2
Grampian Speleological Group	2
Kendal Caving Club	2
Northern Boggarts	3
Northern Pennine Club	1
Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club	3
University of Leeds Speleological Society	3
White Rose Pothole Club	2
York Caving Club	3
Yorkshire Subterranean Society	2
York University Cave and Pothole Club	1

Clubs which have provided notification to stand for CNCC Committee in 2021-2022

(Listed in chronological order of notification receipt, earliest to latest, total = 13)

Re-standing:	Earby Pothole Club
Re-standing:	Yorkshire Subterranean Society
Re-standing:	York Caving Club
Re-standing:	Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club
Re-standing:	Grampian Speleological Group
Re-standing:	Bradford Pothole Club
Re-standing:	Kendal Caving Club
Re-standing:	Craven Pothole Club
Re-standing:	White Rose Pothole Club
Re-standing:	Northern Boggarts
Re-standing:	University of Leeds Speleological Society
Re-standing:	York University Cave and Pothole Club
Re-standing:	Northern Pennine Club

Therefore, we have 13 applicants and 14 available positions. We need to appoint at least 10 of these applicants to form a Committee.

No applicant has come forward for the Committee position of Individual Caver (IC) representative.

## Appendix A (continued): Statements from clubs standing for Committee

### **Earby Pothole Club:**

The Earby Pothole Club is amongst the oldest caving clubs in the UK. Founded in 1945 we have had a long association with and have actively supported the CNCC since its inception.

Mainly active in the Northern Region, although small, we have been involved in many successful digging projects, cave archaeological finds and conservation work with members taking part in numerous overseas expeditions.

Many members are also members of other caving clubs in the UK.

We would wish to continue this active support of the CNCC by continuing our position on the Committee.

**Yorkshire Subterranean Society:** No statement provided

### **York Caving Club:**

On behalf of York Caving Club, we would like to stand again for CNCC Committee for 2021-2022. We are a small club with around 25 members, but we are extremely active on the northern caving scene (at least, as active as anyone could be over the last year). In a more usual year, rarely a weekend would pass without several of our members venturing underground in our region, either as one of our own events, or through various connections to other clubs. We have members involved in digging in the North York Moors, the Three Peaks and the Northern Dales. We would be extremely happy to continue to offer our input to the CNCC Committee, to help further the benefits CNCC can offer to northern caving and to provide active input. On the whole, we operate in a very non-political way, and instead we work on a 'let's go caving' mentality (followed usually by a 'let's drink beer' ethos). Our usual CNCC representative will be Matt Ewles (Chairman) or Gary Douthwaite (Secretary).

### **Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club:**

The Red Rose will be happy to stand again at the AGM as a full member club on the CNCC committee. Despite the restrictions imposed by the COVID 19 pandemic, club members have remained active with digging, photographic and other trips when possible. Postings on social media have kept up morale and a sufeit of spare time has kept our club newsletter well supplied with articles. We've endeavoured to keep Bullpot farm open for camping and small bubble groups as best we can with a lot of hard work done by a small team to make the facilities safe for visitors.

### **Grampian Speleological Group:**

Alan Jeffreys, Grampian Speleological Group, Edinburgh, sees membership of the CNCC as a vital component in Scotland's engagement with UK speleology. On behalf of the GSG committee, he wishes to serve to represent Scottish interests, while fully supporting work accomplished in Northern England. He brings 60 years' experience to the table.

**Bradford Pothole Club:**

As a long established club, having a presence in the caving community for nearly 98 years and with a consistently growing membership of around 300 members we are not only one of the largest clubs in the country but also have a very active caving membership both above and below water, not only in the Dales, but also have members involved in exploration in other parts of the UK as well as taking part in a number of foreign expeditions every year.

As a club we have been involved with the CNCC from the outset and have a number of members involved in cave conservation projects as well as with Natural England.

The club arranges caving meets every other weekend which are open to both members and guests and provide visiting cavers whether from university clubs or other established clubs accommodation with a warm welcome and also provide local knowledge as well.

We provide an interface between cavers and the general public through our activities at our annual Gaping Gill meet by providing access to the system either via a winch directly into the main chamber and by rigging the major routes in to the system for visiting cavers to use.

We support a number of local charities and have a number of members who are active in the Cave Rescue Organisation, Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association and Calder Valley Search and Rescue Team.

**Kendal Caving Club:**

Kendal Caving Club again wishes to stand for a position on the CNCC Committee in 2021.

Whilst always a relatively small club, we have been active in the Dales and elsewhere for over 60 years. Our present activities are normally largely focussed on regular sport caving meets. In association with this we have introduced numerous people new to caving and helped others further develop their skills. (Even under the pandemic we have some new recruits!) In addition we have some members who are involved in various digging activities, cave clean-ups and so forth.

We are keen to maintain our links with CNCC

## Craven Pothole Club:



## Craven Pothole Club Limited

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*Registered Office: Ivy Cottage, Horton in Ribblesdale, Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 0HF  
Registered in England 31935R*

19<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Josh  
Re: Election to CNCC Council

The Craven Pothole Club wishes to stand for election to the CNCC Council at the forthcoming AGM.

The reasons for this are:

We have a large active caving membership of 253 members from all over the UK and the world. We had planned over 40 scheduled club caving trips last year in various areas of the UK (Dales, Mendip, North Wales, Scotland etc) but due to Covid-19 only 10 took place. Our yearly Gaping Gill meet took place in a much reduced format. It was run less than 20 people in camp (bringing up their own camping and caving gear). A number of entrances to the GG system were rigged for SRT for 10 days. There was an open invitation to cavers from other caving clubs and about 10 clubs took us up on this offer. Our Dales cottage is normally used by a number of university and climbing clubs introducing new people to caving and the north. The current membership represents active members of cave and mountain rescue teams covering the whole of the UK (Dales, Mendip, Midlands and the national body). We have an active conservation policy with membership involvement in Sell Gill, Ingleborough, etc. Finally the CPC is a long established Dales club (1929), are founding members of the CNCC and have actively helped the CNCC on many occasions in the past due to our extensive network of local people.

The club is keen to continue this long-standing contribution to the CNCC.

Pat Halliwell will be our representative for the CNCC meetings and if exceptionally she is unable to be present Steve Kirk will stand in.

Yours Sincerely

John A Helm (Hon Secretary)

*Registered Office: Ivy Cottage, Horton in Ribblesdale, Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 0HF  
Registered in England 31935R*

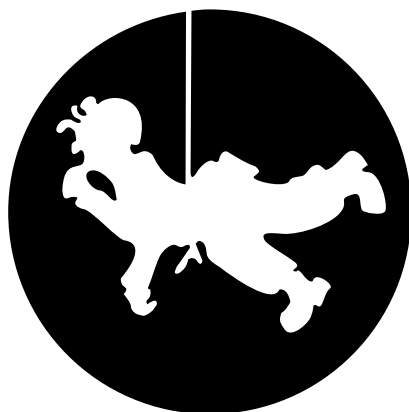
## White Rose Pothole Club:

We would like to stand for a committee position again. If re-elected we look forward to participating with other clubs to further the interests of Northern cavers.

**Northern Boggarts:**

The Northern Boggarts, a local northern caving club based in Clitheroe, is happy to stand again for the committee for the CNCC in 2021. Our club has been on the committee since June 2009 and during this time has played an active part in promoting the interest of northern cavers. Our club has contributed to some of the CNCC Newsletters, helped with the design of a leaflet on digging guidelines and one of our members helped with the publication on the opening up of Shuttleworth Pot and Witches 2. Several of our members continue to play an active part in conservation projects and have helped publicise and make photographic records of many of these. Our club continues to play a lively part in the running of CNCC. One of our club members is the Conservation Officer for the CNCC and another club member is Access Officer for the Bowland Area. We are happy to play an active role in the CNCC and look forwards to your continuing support.

Pete Monk, Secretary, Northern Boggarts, January 2021

**University of Leeds Speleological Society:**

c/o 4 Willow Wood

Langcliffe

Settle

North Yorkshire

BD24 9NT

20<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Re: ULSA representation on the CNCC committee

ULSA would like to stand for re-election to the CNCC committee at the AGM this year. We have played an active role on the committee for seven years, supporting improved access to caves for all cavers, and improving representation for DIMs. We will continue to ensure that the views and interests of student cavers are represented.

In The Dales, our members are active in sports trips, digging, diving, surveying, conservation and bolting. Many are also members of other caving clubs around the country.

As a university club, we introduce many new, mainly young, people to caving although this past year has been somewhat challenging in that regard. New cavers are the future of caving and we would like to continue helping the CNCC with the good work they do.

Many thanks

**York University Cave and Pothole Club:**

YUCPC is an extremely active student club, running trips every weekend in usual times and hosting regular training sessions to introduce new young people to the wonderful world of caving.

Due to the pandemic, we have been hit more than most as we not only have to follow the government restrictions, but the restrictions of our university, although have caved every weekend this year it was possible for us. This year more than usual we would like to contribute to discussions with our usual youth-focused viewpoint, because a number of student clubs are going to be facing substantial difficulties in the wake of the pandemic. We have a significant interest in the work of the CNCC and a desire to do what we can to assist that work and contribute to discussions.

**Northern Pennine Club:** No statement provided.

## Appendix B: Officer Elections

The following individuals have provided notification of their intention to stand:

**Chair:** Andrew Hinde

**Secretary:** Joshua Young

**Treasurer:** No applicant

**Conservation Officer:** Kay Easton

**Access Officer:** No applicant

**Training Officer:** Ian Patrick

It will be possible to elect officers to fill positions with no applicant from the floor on the day of the meeting.

### **Application from Andrew Hinde:**

I would like to put my name forward for election to the post of CNCC Chairman.

I feel that I have made progress in helping make CNCC a “broader church” of caving interests and a place where new ideas are encouraged and debated.

In the next 12 months I would like to develop a more direct involvement of University Caving Clubs in CNCC affairs. They are a vibrant and active community but quite understandably they are not keen on spending a Saturday morning in a village hall. Our recent on line meetings may be a way forward here.

After this coming year the CNCC committee should be considering who they want for their next Chairman.

Andrew Hinde

Jan 2021.

### **Application from Kay Easton:**

I would like to stand again for Conservation Officer, a post I have held for the last six years. I am a member of the Bradford PC and Northern Boggarts. As Conservation Officer, I will perform a facilitative role, helping people access the support and information they need to carry out the conservation projects that they are interested in.