

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

		<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Chairman	- A. Ball	CPC	BCC
Treasurer	- No Nominations		
Secretary	- B. Smith	SUCPC	ULSA
Ass. Secretary	- A. Beecroft	BPC	WRPC

<u>Full Committee</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
SUCPC	BCC	RRCPC
CPC	YSS	ACC
WRPC	BPC	ULSA
BCC	SUCPC	EPC
GC	BPC	WRPC
RRCPC	CPC	SUCPC
ULSA	BPC	EPC
ACC	CPC	BPC
YSS	CPC	WRPC

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

NCA training committee were trying to amend the Cave Leadership Committee. This was deferred so that clubs could discuss the paper with their various committees.

NCA Equipment Committee

Paul Ramsden apologised for being absent. He had no special information for the meeting but he once again asked for details of equipment failures and near misses etc. for national circulation. The British Standard caving rope was still in the testing stages.

Handbook

This is now ready for circulation. Clubs who had not asked for copies as yet should write to the -

Assistant Secretary
A. Beecroft,
23 Charles Street,
Colne, Lancs.

The date of the next meeting is 7th September at the Rose and Crown at Skipton - 7.45 p.m.

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16th June 1979
at the Community Centre, Ingleton.

ATTENDANCE: A. Beecroft (EPC), A. Ball (FUG), J.J. Clegg (Treasurer),
M. Gaffney (ACC), G. Wilkinson (ACC), R. Humphreys (ACC),
B. Cundy (ACC), M. Rhodes (ACC), D.J. Dunn (WVPC),
HA Bond (WVPC), M. Halsey (BPC & FUG), R. Halsey (BPC & FUG),
B. Smith (BPC), R. Arnott (WVPC), I. Wilkinson (BPC),
D. Mellor (CPC), R. Myers (CPC), P. Rose (CPC), R. Halliwell (CPC),
P. Halliwell (HUSS), G. Boothroyd (RRCPC), P. Llewellyn (RRCPC),
A. Tate (YSS), M. Hudson (YSS), B. Jingritz (YSS), L. Koller (LDSA),
D. Cork (LDSA), R. Crowther (LDSA), C. Bowde (LUCC), A. Hall (RRCPC),
F. Addis (NMCC), J. Guilbert (NMCC), D. Leonard (ULSA), E. Butler (ANT)
I. New (DCC), P. Hindle (SUCPC), A. Barber (BCC), A.G. Barber (BCC)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from R. Sutcliffe (GC), B. Lyon (WM), P. Ramsden (WM)
and K. Stead (WRPC).

2. MINUTES

Previously circulated and taken as read.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None.

4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

Chairman

His report was attached and distributed at the meeting.

Secretary

This was also attached. Despite protests by CNCC, RA and other bodies, NYCC
have given permission for afforestation to take place on South House Moor.
Apart from the visual effect, there is little doubt that the "gripping" that
will take place will seriously increase the flood risk to caves in the area
which include Alum Pot and the Long Churn caves as well as Washfold Pot.

The meeting agreed to ask M. Newsome to do a full hydrological survey on
South House Moor. The CNCC agreed in principal to pay out-of pocket expenses.

Treasurer

The balance sheet was presented to the meeting and everyone had a copy.
The treasurer went through the balance sheet so that everyone understood.

5. MEETS SECRETARY

i) Leck

Had issued over 250 permits and bookings go well into 1980. The situation is becoming so bad for meets that the only answer is to negotiate a new access agreement. This is in hand, but in order to get the co-operation of the Estate Manager, the CNCC has agreed to do wall and fencing repairs. The dates for this were the 14th and 15th of July.

Permits for Link Pot and Pippikin would be via Casterton.

ii) Casterton

The meets secretary had issued 292 permits for the fell.

An increasing number of Bolts, in some places quite unnecessary, are now to be found in the Lancaster Easgill system. He would welcome members' views on fixed aids. Finally while not putting forward any solutions he considered that the council cannot ignore the damage and vandalism which is occurring to the system caused particularly by the large number of visitors.

iii) Penygent, Gingling

His report was attached but would like to add that requests for permits for Gingling should be sent in before the end of February.

The NPC have secured the stock proof lid on the Hammer Pot entrance.

iv) Birks Fell/Mongo Gill

The report was attached.

Birks Fell Rescue Incident - A brief report was submitted by the chairman so everyone was aware of what had happened.

A member of the party from DCC attended the meeting. He stated that the DCC apologised for the inconvenience they had caused but they do not apologise for going down the Hole. They will not be taking any disciplinary action with the people involved.

Don Mellor gave a report on the incident and explained that the cave could be filled in very easily and if the tenant farmer or the agents are annoyed or rubbed the wrong way they will simply fill in the cave, so the access agreement should be kept to at all times.

This subject was debated for a long time. It was finally proposed by P. Rose that the two clubs be re-instated as associate members providing they apologised formally to the land owner and tenant farmer and they formally re-affirm to the CNCC that they will abide by the CNCC access agreements.

This was voted upon - the result was 12 for -- none against.

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COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Address List

Applications for meets should be addressed to the relevant Meets Secretary.

MEETS SECRETARIES

Leck Fell

A. Hall, 64E Manor House Close, Leyland, Preston, Lancs.

Casterton Fell

P. Llewellyn, The Chalet, Lower Newhouse, Waddington, Clitheroe, Lancs.

Birks Fell, Mongo Gill

D.C. Mellor, 9 South View, Farnhill, Keighley, W. Yorks.

Penygent, Fountains Fell

I.P. Wilkinson, 35 South Edge, Shipley, W. Yorks.

Subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer.

TREASURER

J. Clegg, 6 Millthrop, Sedbergh, Cumbria.

All other correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary.

SECRETARY

B.J. Smith, 15 North Street, Idle, Bradford, W. Yorks.

Enclose s.a.e. with all enquiries, applications for meets, etc.

C.N.C.C. A.G.M. 1979

Chairman's Report:

Since the last A.G.M. there have been 5 Committee meetings, 2 at the Helwith Bridge Hotel and 3 at the Rose and Crown Hotel, Skipton. I have chaired all these meetings and must express that all have been very well attended. A great deal of time has been taken up at these meetings on the legal matters concerning fixed aids in caves, and the Council's liability to such items of hardware. It has not been possible to reach a conclusion on this matter and I am sure your comments and views will be appreciated.

Pirates are still a problem on some Fells and unfortunately it is these selfish and inconsiderate cavers who are endangering the access agreements. I am sure the Committee will be looking for your continued support in ridding caving of this selfish element.

In January, in what can only be described as Arctic conditions, I attended the N.C.A. A.G.M. in Priddy as one of the four reps. from the C.N.C.C., this being my first A.G.M. at N.C.A. level. I take comfort in knowing that the 1980 meeting is to be held in the North, C.N.C.C. being the Host Council.

I will take this opportunity on your behalf to thank the Officers and Committee for all the work and time they have put in during the last 12 months.

Allan Ball.

June, 1979.

Secretary's Report

Membership. The membership of the Council has increased yet again, by almost 15%. There are now 136 Member clubs, of which 31 are Full members, 12 being represented on Committee. Of the Associate Member clubs, 30 are University, College or School based clubs, and 41 are based in areas other than the North of England.

Access. An increase in the number of permits being issued by the Meets Secretary for Leck and Casterton Fells to over 500 per year led the Council this year to appoint two Meets Secretaries, one for Leck Fell and one for Casterton Fell. An increased number of permits was also issued by the Meets Secretary for Penygent and Fountains Fell, and following negotiations with the Landowner, limited access has been regained to Hammer Pot. Due credit must be given to the four Meets Secretaries for their efforts during the year in dealing with the vast number of permit applications, and most important of all, in furthering the good relationships between the Council and farmers and landowners.

South House Moor. Despite protests by CNCC, RA and other bodies, NYCC have given permission for afforestation to take place on South House Moor. Apart from the visual effect, there is little doubt that the 'gripping' that will take place will seriously increase the flood risk to caves in the area, which include Alum pot and the Long Churn caves, as well as Washfold Pot.

Fixed Aids. The circulars issued by the Legal and Insurance Group of the N.C.A. were discussed at length with, if course, many shades of opinion emerged. Several caves covered by access agreements administered by the Council contain fixed aids, e.g. Lancaster Hole, and many have artificial shored entrances. The position of the Council with regard to the maintenance of, and responsibility for, these aids is far from clear and the Committee would welcome further expert advice on the subject.

N.C.A. I have attended the NCA Executive meetings during the past year and the Council has been represented on the various sub-committees by Roger Sutcliffe (Conservation and Access), Ben Lyon (Training), Paul Ramsden (Equipment), and more recently Chris Baldwin (Legal and Insurance).

The forthcoming NCA meetings take place as follows:-

July 1st	Mendip
October 27th	South Wales
January 13th 1980	Yorkshire

with the C.N.C.C. hosting the next N.C.A. A.G.M. on March 15th 1980. Member clubs are welcome to attend, sending observers to any of these meetings.

Brian J. Smith.

June, 1979.

The balance sheet below was once again compiled by the Councils Auditors Scott & Wilkinson of Lancaster. As can be seen it covers the period 1st April to 31st December this is in order to bring the Councils Financial year into line with its subscription year. Thus in future years a true picture of incoming subscriptions can be gained for that year.

The Council has a healthy financial basis now, due mainly to Grant Aid from N.C.A. which is awarded on a percentage of expenditure. This years figures are a little distorted because of the short period of accounting.

With this healthy state of affairs I am happy not to follow current trends, and recommend no rise in subscriptions is necessary.

J.J. Clegg,
Hon. Treasurer.

June, 1979.

THE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD FROM

1ST APRIL, 1978 TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1978

1977/78

<u>INCOME</u>			
262.00	SUBSCRIPTIONS	111.00	
1.30	SALES OF ACCESS BOOK	- -	
239.00	GRANTS (N.C.A.)	128.00	
56.05	ROYALTIES	22.88	
8.64	BANK DEPOSIT INTEREST	- -	
568.63	1.64 BUILDING SOCIETY INTEREST	26.30	288.18
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
4.35	ROOM HIRE	- -	
35.00	INSURANCE	50.00	
60.00	N.C.A. SUBSCRIPTION	- -	
- -	YORKS. SPORTS FEB.	3.00	
104.67	PRINTING AND STATIONERY	76.66	
31.83	OFFICERS EXPENSES	29.44	
2.85	BANK CHARGES	1.71	
30.00	WORKING PARTY	- -	
- -	AUDIT	18.90	
268.70	- - SUNDRY	0.10	179.81
299.93	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>£108.37</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1978

<u>ASSETS</u>			
181.59	CASH AT BANK	277.66	
14.00	CASH IN HAND	- -	
697.23	501.64 BURNLEY BUILDING SOCIETY	527.94	805.60

REPRESENTED BY:-

<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>			
397.30	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	697.23	
697.23	299.93 EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		
	FOR PERIOD TO DATE	108.37	<u>805.60</u>

PREPARED FROM AND CERTIFIED TO BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BOOKS AND INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO US.

C.N.C.C. A.G.M. 1979

Report of Leck Fell Secretary

Since I took over last year when the two fells of Casterton and Leck were split, bookings have increased once again. In the last twelve months I have issued over 250 permits and bookings go well into 1980. In fact there are no weekend dates available for any caves on Leck Fell until July of next year except for Lost John's and Pippikin due to the restrictions of the access agreement. The situation is becoming so bad that the only answer is to negotiate a new access agreement. This is in hand but it needs the co-operation of the estate manager. In order to get his co-operation and as a gesture of goodwill, the C.N.C.C. agreed to do some wall repairs on Leck Fell, particularly along the boundary wall between Leck and Ireby. The C.N.C.C. Committee member clubs were notified of the date (17th/18th March) and 3 clubs offered to help; R.R.C.P.C., B.P.C., and F.U.G. In the event the work had to be called off due to heavy snowfall. The new date which has been set is 14th/15th July. I would ask that clubs who would like to offer their services do so at the end of the meeting.

With the discovery of Link Pot it seems clear already that Pippikin will become even more popular and it was agreed that as access to Link was via Casterton that permits would be issued by the Casterton Secretary.

There have been a number of requests for digging permits on Leck, all of which I have had to refuse as the Estate Manager does not want any open digs on the Fell.

Andy Hall.

June, 1979.

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

CASTERTON FELL MEETS SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1978/79

I am pleased to report that generally I consider the access agreement to Casterton Fell is working well. I have had no complaints from the owner, his agents, the tenant farmers or member clubs. However, I am not unaware of the pirating which does occur especially by our own Council members.

During the last year there have been 292 permits issued for the Fell. I try and get permits off as quickly as possible, and providing alternative dates are put forward there has usually been no difficulty in fixing clubs up with their requirements.

Most clubs at last seem to have got the message that Andy Hall is now the meets secretary for Leck Fell, although I still occasionally get the odd Pippikin permit request.

Would members please note that permit requests for Link Pot should come through me. Possibly in the future clubs may have a problem if they want to do a Pippikin - Link through trip as the two caves are administered by two different meets secretaries. Perhaps the meeting will have views on this.

While no doubt the Occupiers Liability Act will be brought up elsewhere in the meeting, as well as the iron ladders, an increasing number of bolts, in some places quite unnecessary, are now to be found in the Lancaster Easegill System. I would welcome members views on these fixed aids.

Finally, while I am not putting forward any solutions, I consider the Council cannot ignore the damage and vandalism which is occurring to the System, caused particularly by the large number of visitors.

Pete Llewellyn.

THE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Meets Secretary's report for the Ribblesdale Area

Penyghent Fell. (closed 15th April to 15th June)

The number of permits issued was slightly down on last year, but the period from January to the end of July was still heavily booked with many permits being requested nine to twelve months in advance. The later part of the year was much thinner with many weekend dates unbooked.

Most Meet Secretaries are now submitting a list of alternative dates and this is of great help particularly with Penyghent and Dale Head Pots which remain firm favourites.

The entrance to Penyghent Pot has become very loose and care should be taken until it can be stabilised.

Permits issued:-

Penyghent Pot	49
Dale Head Pot	32
Little Hull Pot	24
Hunt Pot	10
High Hull	1
Hull Pot	1

Wachfold Pot. (open all year)

With 20 permits issued this pot is increasing in popularity.

Fountains Fell, Fornah Gill. (open all year)

Magnetometer Pot received 23 visits but poor old Echo Pot only 3.

Fountains Fell. (open between Easter and November)

Access to Hammer Pot has been obtained again with 15 trips per year being allowed. The booking system for this cave is the same as for Gingling Hole which now stands at a possible 30 trips per year.

Requests for permits to Hammer and Gingling must be in the Meet Secretary's hands by the end of February of the year in question in order that a full list for the year can be drawn up and submitted to the landowners for confirmation.

Ian Wilkinson
Meets Secretary Ribblesdale Area.

MEETS SECRETARY, BIRKS FELL AND MONGO GILL

ANNUAL REPORT 1979

Birks Fell Cave, Buckden

The major problem affecting this cave was the rescue incident last year involving two clubs who did not have permission, during the closed season for the cave. After extensive correspondence with his agents, the Council has been informed that the owner has refrained from imposing any further restriction on access, but he will obviously be keeping a close eye on the use of the cave for the next year or two. Further aspects of this incident will be discussed later in the Agenda.

I would like to record the Council's appreciation of the remedial work to the track carried out after the rescue by the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Organisation - work which the owner could have insisted on the Council undertaking under the terms of the access agreement, and also for their P.R. work in pacifying the tenant farmer.

Access to the cave is restricted to the period 16th April to 30th October in every year - 56 weekend dates only. Last year a total of 34 permits were issued, the same number have been issued so far this year. There has been a noticeable increase in applications for mid-week trips.

Mongo Gill Hole, Greenhow

No problems have arisen this year. Many more permits are being used, which I hope means a reduction in the number of parties visiting the hole without permission which had caused problems in the past.

The hole is "closed" during May, June and July, but there are plenty of vacant dates for August onwards.