

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION

AGM

To be held at Hellifield Village hall on 06 March 2010

Starting at 10:00

AGENDA

1. Apologise for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matter arising from the minutes
4. Officers reports
 - Chairman's report
 - Secretary's report
 - Treasurer's report
 - Conservation officer's report
 - Access officer's report
 - Training officer's report
 - Technical group report
5. Meets secretaries reports
 - Leck Fell
 - Casterton Fell
 - Birks Fell
 - Penyghent & Fountains Fell
 - Other areas
6. BCA report
7. Constitutional amendments
8. Election of officers and committee
9. Any other business
10. Date and place of next meeting and committee meetings



Council of Northern Caving Clubs

Chairman's Report 2010 AGM

The main event within the past twelve months has been the substantial amount of work done by a relatively few clubs and individuals as regards access and conservation work, financed by Natural England. I will not dwell on any one project as I am sure that Marion Dunn our conservation officer will have plenty to say, but a big thank you to all that have had any input to the various projects and to Natural England for finding the money in these cash strapped times.

It is hoped that the good work will continue not just for the next year but will become part of normal caving activities, there is plenty to be done, not only around the entrances where last year's efforts have been concentrated but within the caves themselves.

The bolting program is in the throws of starting again with training events taking place. The technical group report will have more to say on this one.

I take this opportunity to thank all the officers of the CNCC without whom there would be no council and certainly a lot less access to many of our caves.

It would obviously be desirable to have open access to all the caves in the north of England but as things stand at the moment this is not possible. However if you compare our situation not only with the rest of Britain but the rest of the world, we get a very good deal for very little cost.

Good caving to all in 2010

May your digs go megga!

May your light never dim!

May the pitch be shorter than your rope!

And your wellies never leak

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Council of Northern Caving Clubs

Secretary's report

Annual General Meeting 2010

Secretary's report

From a secretarial perspective there is very little to report. Most items throughout the year are dealt with by email and resolved quickly.

Access Officers' report

Voldemort Pot. Has been opened by the diggers and A. Walsh is undertaking the entrance work as agreed with the Estate Office.

Excalibur Pot. The agreement between CNCC and the farmer have been agreed and it is now open for bookings, applications from CNCC member clubs on club note paper signed by a club official.

Whitewell Pot. Access to this cave is now controlled by the CNCC.

Due to the ill health of Pete Muckalt there is a new meets secretary for Casterton Fell. I will take this opportunity to formally thank Peter, on behalf of the CNCC and all cavers, for the many years of work he has spent administering access for Casterton Fell. For those who think it is just about sitting at home writing permits, I can assure them there is a lot more to do than that, you have to meet the land agents frequently and drink their coffee and whiskey.

Leck Fell. A new agreement has been signed and will run for one year 01/01/2010 until 10/10/2011 and it shall be renewed annually. The only major points from the new agreement are that we no longer have to pay for footpaths, stiles and fencing, and we have gained an extra permit per day (now 3 permits per day with a maximum of 7 cavers). However, we now pay a goodwill fee of £100.

Fairy Holes Weardale. The saga rumbles on, however, there has been some significant progress over the past two months. CNCC will be administering access once the site is made safe (Lafarge) Porky Potters Caving Club will be acting as meets secretary.

CNCC Technical Group

The CNCC Technical Group on behalf of BCA has run an anchor installation workshop in the Dales. During the workshop Glenn Jones was assessed and validated as an anchor installation trainer.

BCA Equipment & Techniques Committee

The issue that was discussed at the last committee meeting regarding the publication and open access to the training notes for anchor installers has not been resolved. It is my opinion that BCA national council had the opportunity to back the Equipment & Techniques Committee on its decision to restrict access to the document and failed to do so. Therefore, I must conclude that currently the BCA National Council does not support the Equipment & Techniques Committee. As a result of the inaction and lack of leadership shown by the National Council I am seriously considering withdrawing from any involvement in the Equipment & Techniques committee. This action will not affect the CNCC and the anchors it has placed or is placing, because we accepted the Installation and Training document that was recommended by the Equipment & Techniques Committee. It only affects CSCC who refuse to accept the document and have caused the problems that the National Council will not resolve.

Training Officers report

Damien Weare has kindly offered to help me with this event. More information will follow soon.

Les Sykes

CNCC secretary

CNCC Training Officer

CNCC Access Officer

CNCC co-representative BCA Equipment & Techniques Committee

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS
AGM – March 6th 2010

TREASURERS REPORT

Following the agreement by the CNCC committee that the accounts should be verified by a volunteer CNCC member club, rather than pay the increasingly expensive costs of an accountant, Craven PC have volunteered to verify the 2009 accounts for the 2010 AGM. The attached letter from Pat and Ric Halliwell verifies this report as accurate. The process is a little different from that of an auditors report, in that it verifies, by scrutinisation of bank statements, invoices, receipts and working spreadsheet (Quicken) that this report for the 2009 financial year is correct.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME

Balance c/f from 2008		£1,231.43
Rigging Guides	£1,449.00	
Natural England Funding	£6,281.60	
Funds Transfer	£200.00	
2008 BCA Annual Funding Grant	£707.23	
French Cave Rescue Books	£322.00	
TOTAL INCOME	£8,959.84	

EXPENSES

Meetings (Room Hire)	£92.00
Secretarial, postage & 'phone calls	£149.50
Stationery	£148.82
Access & Conservation	£95.89
Rigging Guide bulk printing	£620.92
Natural England Volunteer Payments	£925.57
Resin & Nozzles	£181.82*
Web Site upgrade	£105.00
Bank Transfer	£3,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	£5,319.52

*Outstanding claim with BCA

Balance c/f to 2010 **£4,871.75**

HIGH INTEREST ACCOUNT:

Balance 1 st January 2009	£9,860.47
Interest received:	£6.86
Funds transfer(out)	£200.00
Funds transfer (in)	£3,000.00
Balance 31 st December 2009	£12,667.33

RIGGING GUIDES: A further 200 copies of the new Volume 1 (v2) have been printed.

ASSETS: No assets (*assets older than 5 years have been written off*)

BCA Grant to Regional Councils: CNCC Claim 2009

The CNCC Treasurer will be submitting a claim to BCA for a total of £486.21 comprised of the following budget heads (which will offset overpayments of BCA grant aid to CNCC in 2005/2006):

Sub Budget Head - **Meetings** (Covers - photocopy, postage, room hire, stationary, phone bills, travel expenses of officers to meetings. Does not cover - travel expenses of members)

Meetings: £241.50: comprising:

Room Hire: £92.00

Photocopying, Postage and 'phone calls: £149.50

CNCC officers do not claim mileage.

Sub Budget Head - **Conservation & Access** (Covers - Negotiating access to caves and mines, gating of entrances, stabilising (and opening up of alternative safer) of entrances, working with landowner to maintain access, payment of "peppercorn" rents for access, other liaison and public relations work related to maintaining access and promoting conservation, travel expenses for meetings, photocopy, postage, stationary, phone bills. Does not cover - digging as part of new exploration)

Conservation & Access: £95.89: comprising:

£71.28: postage & stationery directly related to Stump Cross/Mongo Gill, Birks Fell and Robinsons Pot landowners.

£24.61: postage and annual access agreement for Fountains Fell

(The majority of 2009 work under this heading has been funded by Natural England)

Sub Budget Head - **Insurance** (Covers - Provision of Public Liability cover for all persons (including officers, members, volunteers and land owners & their employees) involved in activities on behalf of the RCC activities, public liability cover for land owner access agreements. Does not cover - insurance for clubs or individuals not undertaking authorised work on behalf of the RCC)

No expenditure in 2008 under this budget head

Sub Budget Head - **Provision of Information** (Covers - Production of "Regional" Circulars (regular or spasmodic) on access, Production of "Regional" Access Handbook (regular or spasmodic. *Does not cover* - Production of a "Regional" newsletter (regular or spasmodic), Production of Handbook (regular or spasmodic), Production or sponsoring of "Regional" (Area) Guide Book, Topo sheet, Bolting Guide etc, Participation in events to promote caving)

Provision of Information: £148.82: comprising:

Viking Direct: Ink jet cartridges, paper and envelopes

I am prepared to stand as Treasurer for the next 12 months.

Glenn Jones

CNCC Treasurer

Craven Pothole Club

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19 February 2010

CNCC Accounts 2009-10

Dear Glenn

We have checked the bank statements, summaries of cheques issued and payments received and after raising a small number of minor queries, which you have resolved entirely to our satisfaction, we are happy to state that all monies expended have been accurately accounted for. Similarly all income has been correctly recorded and the bank statements are in full agreement with the records of all transaction. We did note that in two cases, although you had paid exactly the amount requested by the claimant, the attached receipts totalled more than the amount being claimed

With all best wishes



Dr RA Halliwell, Committee Member Craven Pothole Club

Mrs PC Halliwell, Committee Member Craven Pothole Club

CNCC Conservation Officer's report AGM 6 March 2010

Main developments in 2009/10 – Northern Caves Monitoring Project

Andrew Hinde (AH) continued in his appointment as Cave Conservation Adviser with Natural England until November 2009, when he was seconded back into his original post as National Nature Reserve Manager on Ingleborough. Marion Dunn continued in the post and both of us have worked in partnership with CNCC, and the wider caving community to collect and collate cave conservation SSSI monitoring data, to deliver a variety of cave-related surface conservation works projects, with financial support from Natural England, and to raise awareness generally about cave conservation issues.

Cave SSSI monitoring

Overall 89% of data gathered – an excellent effort considering there are 543 features on the list to be visited/assessed, and 485 of these have been assessed. Initial survey of information shows that they appear to be in a satisfactory or good condition, with most good or very good. About 30 individuals have been involved in supplying this information.

Surface works

A regular team of about 20 volunteers has been established to undertake conservation work for the project, whose help has been much appreciated. The following works have been undertaken:

- Ireby Fell Caverns and Ireby Fell – improvement of path over fell and into Caverns shakehole and stile repair;
- Stock-proofing, walling, stile-building and tree planting at Cow Pot, Casterton Fell;
- Aquamole, Kingsdale – improvement of area around the pot entrance, to allow limestone flora to regrow;
- Buttertubs – removal of rubbish in conjunction with Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team;
- Barbon Pot, Barbondale – removal of large amount of rubbish;
- Gunnerfleet Cave, Ribbleshead – removal of large amount of rubbish;
- Re-opening and restabilisation of Whitewell Pot, Bowland (major engineering job!) and landscaping area around Pot entrance, with provision of materials by Natural England and trees by Lancashire County Council;
- Alum Pot area – build new Lower Long Churn and Diccan stiles and repair wall end close to Lower Long Churn Cave;
- Yordas Cave and Wood – rubbish cleanup, removal of unsightly soot and candle wax from Cave walls, re-stockproofing (fencing) around Yordas Pot, start to repair wall at top end of Plantation in conjunction with Huddersfield University students.

Other activities

- Bat detection equipment purchased initially for use in Littondale Caves – will be owned by Natural England, but can be used on request by cavers;
- Stainless steel pins to support protective tape manufactured and placed in Voldemort Hole to protect vulnerable formations;
- Stainless steel pins to support protective tape manufactured to protect the Colonnades, Lancaster Hole;
- Alum Pot area interpretation board designed and in production;
- Visit organised to take Year 8 Ingleton Middle School students on trip to Ingleborough Cave to do the cave monitoring;
- Visit to River Dee area in vicinity of Upper Dentdale Caves to assess nature and extent of fly-tipping which appears to have gone on unchecked for years along a 500m stretch of the river bank, resulting in huge amounts of rubbish being washed into the caves – report and photographs produced which will go into portfolio of information to be presented to Cumbria County Council by the Environment Agency - Yorkshire Dales National Park informed;
- Monies set aside for improvement to Ingleborough dig sites.

Project Publicity

- New project flyer designed produced and distributed to cafes, caving hostels and outdoor centres;
- Project posters supplied to Council of Higher Education Caving Clubs for their annual event;
- Article about Whitewell Pot in Clitheroe Advertiser, Speleology (Tony Brown).
- Whitewell Pot display boards being produced (Pete Monk);
- Article about school visit to Ingleborough Cave in Craven Herald (Andy Hinde) & Westmorland Gazette (Marion Dunn)
- Articles about Gunnerfleet Cave, Whitewell Pot and cave monitoring in Descent (Kay Easton);
- Article planned for Descent, Westmorland Gazette about surface improvements to Alum Pot area, Yordas Cave and Wood (Kay Easton);
- Feature article in Yorkshire Post plus video clip on website (Marion Dunn);
- Article planned for Darlington and Stockton times (Marion Dunn);
- Various local talks given about the project, including talk at Regional Natural England Conference and Malham Tarn Field Centre.

The future

Hopefully the project will continue in some form in the future, and it seems likely that a project officer (maybe, me!) will be funded by Natural England for 2 days/week although nothing is certain as yet. Overall, the project has had about 80 people who have contributed effort in some way. This includes cavers and other surface works conservation volunteers, representatives of CNCC, BCA, BCRA, DCA, local rescue teams, show cave owners, Descent, local businesses, local builders, outdoor centres, shops and cafes, other local suppliers, local and regional newspapers, and staff from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Natural England. It is likely that the nature of the project will be essentially unchanged, although the need for gathering this round of monitoring data will cease at the end of 2010.

One issue that I would like people to think about (as discussed in previous circulated notes) is what they would consider the most efficient way of gathering the cave monitoring information in the future, as this ought to be collected every six years. e.g. web-based system, paper system, photographic record etc? I would also like to know if anyone would be prepared to act as a local co-ordinator for particular areas, arranging for the distributing of the monitoring forms as necessary e.g. Northern Dales, Casterton Fell, Leck Fell, Marble Steps area, Kingsdale, Ingleborough, Ribbleshead, Penyghent, Fountains Fell, Malham and Settle, Wharfedale, Littondale, Nidderdale.

A final word of thanks

Finally, sincere thanks to all the people who helped with the cave monitoring and surface cave conservation works and in preparing and providing wording for articles and photographic material. Thanks also to Les and Glenn for bearing some of the administrative strain!

Marion Dunn, CNCC Conservation Officer, 3.3.10

Council Northern Caving Clubs

A.G.M. report for Penyghent/Fountains Fell 2010

2009 was my fifth year as access officer and in that time I have issued 303 permits, an average of 61 permits per year.

Last year was a good year with a total of 67 permits issued and no reported problems.

Cave	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Little hull	10	8	9	7	10
Dale head	0	0	2	4	6
Penyghent Pot	11	8	24	23	17
Washfold Pot	10	12	11	8	14
Hunt Pot	4	4	3	4	10
Gingling Hole	9	36	3	8	6
Gingling sink	0	0	1	1	0
Hammer Pot	4	3	8	5	4
Total	54	71	61	60	67

2010 looks like being another busy year with 42 permits issued to date, I am willing to carry on as access officer for another year.

Malcolm Hughes 26 Wellcroft, Otley, Leeds, LS21 1JJ malcolm@hughes10.fsnet.co.uk

Report to Council of Northern Caving Clubs AGM 6th March 2010-02-26
Leck Fell Access Agreement – 09/10

During the last twelve months a total of 363 permits have been issued to 40 clubs and organisations. The figures for 08/09 were 367 permits to 51 clubs, 07/08 - 354 permits to 46 clubs, 06/07 - 187 permits to 41 clubs, 05/06 – 181 permits to 48 clubs, 04/05 – 191 permits to 58 clubs and 03/04 – 197 permits to 63 clubs and organisations.

The ongoing exploration work on the fell has continued to be supported via the access system and any free weekend/weekday permits, which remain available immediately prior to the submission of the monthly estate office return, are issued for this purpose.

Over the last twelve months there has been a decline in the number of clubs booking permits. A brief comparison of the clubs that booked permits for the previous twelve months and this year shows that there were at least ten clubs that did not apply for permits during 09/10 that did so during 08/09. Of these, with the exception of one, all the clubs concerned were not local to the Dales, and are based in other caving areas. It is felt that the poor weather over the past three months and the effects of the recession, may have contributed towards this decline in the number of clubs applying for permits. Having said this there has been no decline in requests for permits from local clubs and the overall number of permits issued reflects this. In addition 20 clubs have now applied for permits during the coming year, and this is double the figure for a similar time last year.

With the inception of the new access arrangements it is now possible to issue more permits and this has eased the situation considerably, with more clubs being able to have their first choice of date for their trips.

There has been some recent concern about bogus requests for permits, from individuals/clubs who are not BCA members, and these have been dealt with and the situation concerning this is being monitored.

During 09/10 one complaint was received, from a club who raised concern about Lost Johns being pirated during their trip. This was taken up and looked at but it is not known who was involved. As far as is known this did not come to the attention of the landowner or estate managers.

Jim Sloane (CNCC Meets Secretary – Leck Fell)
26/02/2010