

Council of Northern Caving Clubs

Notice of a Special General Meeting  
to consider proposed revised Constitution

A Special General Meeting of the Council will be held at the Hill Inn, Chapel le Dale at 3.00 pm on Saturday 2nd December 1972 to consider the motion that the proposed revised Constitution (copy enclosed) be accepted.

At the Annual General Meeting in May 1972 the Committee was instructed to draw up its proposals for clarifying and amending the Constitution in the light of changing circumstances. The present Constitution was drawn up ten years ago when the Council's only concern was to regain access to certain specific fells which had been totally closed. Its membership at that time consisted of fewer than 20 established Northern Clubs whereas now we have more than 60 including many small groups, clubs from other regions and groups organised by schools, colleges and outdoor centres. As the pressures on the sport and the caves have increased, so has CNCC had to broaden its interests.

Much of the proposed Constitution is simply a rephrasing of existing clauses. The Committee believes that it will more clearly define the functions of the Council and make it better able to safeguard the interests of Northern caving clubs.

Clubs are requested to give full consideration to the proposals before sending representatives to the meeting. Voting will be restricted to one representative for each paid up Full Member club present. If any club has mislaid its present Constitution, a copy may be obtained on request from the Hon. Secretary.

J. R. Sutcliffe  
Chairman

## THE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Minutes of the Special General Meeting held  
on Saturday 2nd December 1972 at the Hill  
Inn, Chapel-le-Dale.

The following clubs were represented:

Craven Pothole Club  
Bradford Pothole Club (Hon. Treasurer)  
Earby Pothole Club  
Whernside Manor  
Burnley Caving Club  
Sunderland Caving Club  
Red Rose Caving & Pothole Club  
Bolton Speleo Club  
Grampian Speleo Group  
North Manchester Caving Club  
Happy Wanderers Caving & Pothole Club  
Gritstone Club (Chairman)  
Rolls Royce Speleo Group (Hon. Secretary)

### Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received by the Secretary from Lancaster University Speleological Society.

#### 1 Revised Constitution (2nd Draft)

The proposed, revised Constitution submitted by the Committee was approved with a few minor amendments, all of which were agreed unanimously.

These amendments mainly affect Section 4 - Membership and introduce changes to the wording and order of clauses. In clause 4.4 however, the words "... active in the caves of the North of England " were amended to read: "based in the North of England", following a proposal from Alan Jeffreys (Grampian Speleo Group), seconded by Craven Pothole Club and carried unanimously.

Alan Jeffreys maintained that the Dales and Northern Pennines were the main caving areas for Scottish Caving Clubs. There seemed little likelihood of a Scottish Council being formed in the foreseeable future, and if such a body does materialise, then the CNCC Constitution can be reviewed.

#### 2 Any Other Business

There was no other business and the meeting was closed.

J. Roger Sutcliffe - Chairman

J. Rasdell - Hon. Secretary

NOTE: A copy of the revised Constitution is enclosed. Further copies may be obtained from the Secretary if required. Please enclose Stamped addressed envelope.

File

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Proposed revised Constitution 2nd Draft  
October 1972.

1. Name The organisation shall be called The Council of Northern Caving Clubs.
  
2. Definition
  - 2.1 The Council is a voluntary association of responsible caving clubs.
  - 2.2 The Council cannot interfere with the individuality of any club.
  
3. Aims and Objects
  - 3.1 To ensure and maintain access to caves and potholes by negotiation and/or agreement with farmers, landowners or authorities.
  - 3.2 To secure and maintain good relations, and act as general co-ordinating body between, cavers, farmers, land owners, game-keepers, and other local residents.
  - 3.3 To encourage cavers to respect and conserve cavers and the countryside.
  - 3.4 To represent the general interest of member clubs and Northern caves.
  - 3.5 To act as a general disciplinary body and arbitrator in the event of any act considered detrimental to the Council as a whole,
  
4. Membership
  - 4.1 Membership of the Council is open to all caving clubs and organisations.
  - 4.2 Applications for membership must be proposed and seconded by member clubs before being considered by the Committee.  
Applications for associate membership will be accepted from members of other Regional Councils upon receipt of a proof of membership of their respective Regional Council.
  - 4.3 Newly elected clubs shall pay an Entrance Fee decided upon at a General Meeting of the Council.
  - 4.4 Election shall be to a class of Associate Membership and after a period of twelve months, a club may apply for Full Membership, which shall be decided by the Committee.
  - 4.5 Full Membership of the Council will only be granted to responsible and properly constituted clubs which are owned and controlled by their own members and are primarily active in the caves of the North of England.
  - 4.6 Clubs not elected to Full Membership will remain Associate Members.
  - 4.7 Membership shall lapse when a club is six months in arrears with its Annual Subscription.
  
5. Subscription and Finance
  - 5.1 Full and Associate Member clubs shall pay an Annual Subscription due on the first of January each year.
  - 5.2 The amount of the Annual Subscription shall be decided at a General Meeting of the Council.
  - 5.3 The Council shall have the power to raise funds from other sources.
  
6. Officers and Committee
  - 6.1 A working Committee shall be elected every second year at a General meeting.
  - 6.2 The Committee shall consist of eight elected members, plus a Chairman Secretary and Treasurer, each of whom shall represent different clubs of at least five years continuous Membership.
  - 6.3 The Committee shall be empowered to co-opt additional members who shall not be eligible to vote.

- 6.4 If a club which is represented on the Committee fails to send a representative to two consecutive Committee Meetings without good reason being given in writing, the Committee may elect another club to provide a Committee Member in its place.
- 6.5 The Committee shall meet at least three times per year as convened by the Secretary.
- 6.6 The Secretary shall call a Committee Meeting if requested by three or more other members of the Committee.
- 6.7 A quorum at a Committee Meeting shall consist of six Committee Members at least one of whom shall be an Officer of the Council.
- 6.8 Minutes of Committee Meetings shall be taken and copies circulated to all member clubs.

7. General Meetings

- 7.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held in May or June every year.
- 7.2 A Special General Meeting shall be called if requested in writing by ten member clubs.
- 7.3 All member clubs shall be sent notice of a General Meeting at least 4 weeks in advance.
- 7.4 General Meetings shall be open to all member clubs but voting shall be restricted to one representative from each paid up Full Member club present.
- 7.5 Eight Full Member clubs shall constitute a quorum at a General Meeting.
- 7.6 Minutes of General Meetings shall be taken and copies circulated to all member clubs.
- 7.7 The Constitution shall only be amended at a General Meeting of the Council.

8. Access Procedure

- Where special Access Agreements have been drawn up between landowners and the Council the following procedure will apply:
- 8.1 All rules and conditions must be adhered to as laid down in the Agreement.
  - 8.2 All member clubs shall be issued with full details of Agreements when completed or revised.
  - 8.3 The Committee shall appoint Meets Secretaries, as necessary, to issue permits to visit caves and potholes covered by Agreements, in accordance with the stipulated conditions.
  - 8.4 Meets Secretaries shall be considered as co-opted Committee members with no voting rights.
  - 8.5 Applications for permits will only be accepted from paid up member clubs of the Council.
  - 8.6 The Meets Secretary may restrict the issue of permits to a particular cave or area in accordance with the Committee if:
    - i The demand for access exceeds the available dates.
    - ii A threat to the agreement as a whole.might arise as a consequence of some special circumstance.
  - 8.7 All member clubs must accept responsibility for the activities and behaviour of their individual members in the areas subject to Agreement.

9. General

- 9.1 Member clubs shall apply for permission to enter any land and abide by any special conditions imposed.
- 9.2 The Council cannot accept liability of costs for any damage, fire, theft, legal fees, injury etc, incurred by any member.
- 9.3 In the event of a serious breach of the Constitution by a member club, a Special General Meeting may be called to consider what disciplinary action should be taken which may include expulsion from the Council.

CONSTITUTION

The Council shall consist of a voluntary association of responsible clubs.

The objects of the Council shall be:-

1. To ensure and maintain access to caves and potholes by negotiation and/or agreement with the land-owners or authorities.
2. To secure and maintain good relations and act as general co-ordinating body between cavers, land-owners, game-keepers, farmers and other local residents, by encouraging its members to observe the rules of the civil and country codes.
3. To act as a general disciplinary body and arbitrator in the event of any act considered detrimental to the Council as a whole.

RULES

4. The Council cannot interfere with the individuality of any Club, and are also precluded from owning any caving tackle and from acquiring any proprietary interest in any cave.
5. Where special access agreements between land-owners and the Council exist (i.e. Leck and Casterton Fells) all rules and conditions must be adhered to as laid down in the agreement. All member clubs will be issued with copies of any agreements when completed or revised.
6. A working committee shall be elected every two years and shall consist of eight selected members, plus a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, each of whom shall represent different full member clubs of at least eight years' standing.
7. The Committee shall be empowered to co-opt members from such bodies as the C.R.O., C.R.G., etc., in a purely advisory capacity, at their discretion.
8. If a Club which is represented on the Committee does not send a representative to two consecutive meetings without good reason being given in writing, the Committee may elect another Club to provide a Committee member in its place.
9. The Secretary shall convene committee meetings at his own discretion.
10. A general meeting shall be held once a year and not more than two representatives from each member, associate or probationary club may attend. Voting at general meetings will be confined to full member clubs.
11. Newly formed clubs must serve a year's probation, and where special agreements exist, should have a guide provided by the Council.

12. Applications for membership by any responsible club will be accepted. The term 'responsible' in this case meaning a moderate amount of experience, ladders and ropes of good quality (rope or wire), and a moderate knowledge of the Northern Fells.
  13. Clubs from outlying areas (e.g. Mendips) may become associate members, and for the purpose of any special agreements be construed as guests of member clubs.
  - 13a. In clauses 11, 12 and 13 all new applicants must be proposed and seconded by member clubs and pay an entrance fee of £1 plus £1 a year.
  - 13b. All future applicants for membership will be elected to a class of associate membership and after a period of twelve months they can apply for full membership which shall be decided by the Committee. Associate members will be under supervision as directed by Clause (2) if so decided by the Committee.
- The Subscriptions of associate member clubs shall be the same as full member clubs under Clause 13a.
14. Council members shall apply for permission for access to any land not covered by agreement and report to the farmer and/or land-owner on the outward and return journeys, and abide by any special conditions imposed.
  15. Supervision of all parties, on any fell, should be rigidly enforced by the inclusion of at least two experienced cavers in the party, no matter how easy the cave. This should also reduce accidents and incidents.
  16. If a member club is unfamiliar with any land a guide will be supplied by the Council on request. Requests should be sent to the Secretary in time for arrangements to be made.
  17. It is the duty of members of the Council to try to prevent acts of vandalism and wanton damage by irresponsible parties as best they can.
  18. Permission must always be obtained for any surface digs which must be left with adequate protection for livestock, whilst in progress. If the dig fails the land must be returned to its original condition.
  19. The Council do not accept liability of costs for any damage, fire, theft, legal fees, etc. etc., incurred by any member.

20. In the event of a complaint due to damage or unruly behaviour, the following procedure will be adopted:-

A full report will be sent to the Secretary of the Council who will convene a committee meeting.

A representative of the land-owner and the club in question will be asked to attend, and each given the opportunity to state his case.

If the complaint is proved internal disciplinary action may be taken by the committee of the club concerned, e.g. if the damage can be rectified, or an apology offered, and some agreement reached between the land-owner and the offending club, this will be encouraged by the Council committee. If however, the complaint is a serious one and proved beyond reasonable doubt, the committee will suspend the club whilst the Secretary convenes an extraordinary general meeting.

At this meeting the matter will be discussed and the committee's recommendation given. Suspension or expulsion from the Council would then be decided and the land-owner concerned notified that the Council is no longer responsible for the guilty club.

21. The rules of this constitution can only be amended or withdrawn on a resolution passed by the Council at a general meeting or extraordinary general meeting.

Constitution first passed:

Clapham 22nd June, 1963.

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