

# **COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS**

## **British Caving Association**

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### **Meets Secretary Reports for 17<sup>th</sup> January 2015 Committee Meeting**

#### **Aygill Caverns – Geoff Whittaker**

The last 4 months have been very quiet regarding clubs requesting permits, and only 4 have been requested to date. There were 10 permits issued during 2014, and a further 2 have been issued at the moment for 2015.

There have been no issues raised by the Estate Office.

#### **Casterton Fell – Alan Speight**

A total of 69 clubs were issued with permits for the whole of 2014:

31 more than in 2011

22 more than 2012

15 more than in 2013

This adds up to 355 permits issued in total for 2014, a big increase from the 179 permits issued for the whole of 2011 and the 209 permits issued in 2012 but 12 down from 2013.

A complete new entrance tube and lid was fitted to Lancaster Hole by the Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club. The work closed access to Lancaster Hole for 1 month and this is probably the reason for the reduction in permits issued.

Almost all permits are now issued by email make everyone's life much easier. They can also be turned around in less than a week (provided I am not on holiday) and the CNCC web site has been altered to reflect this. The problem now is that I get a deluge of permit requests on a Friday for permits the following day especially if the weather is very wet.

A new land agent for Casterton Fell took over in July 2014 after the retirement of Thomas Bowering. So far there have been no problems or complaints.

So for 2015, many clubs have already booked permits but with 5 permits per day at weekends there are still plenty left. The earlier you book in advance the better.

At the AGM I intend to retire from the Casterton meets secretary job.

### **Excalibur Pot – Matt Ewles**

So far three permits have been issued for Excalibur Pot for 2015: 1<sup>st</sup> Feb, 8<sup>th</sup> Feb and 19<sup>th</sup> April

There have been no issues raised by the landowner.

### **Ingleborough Estate – Geoff Whittaker (pending Committee approval)**

After a slightly delayed start waiting for documentation to arrive from the Ingleborough Estate, 8 permit requests arrived from Clubs and an individual on 5<sup>th</sup> January, these were all dealt with on the 6<sup>th</sup> January and permits emailed back the same day. So far this year, 18 clubs and 1 individual have requested permits for the Ingleborough/Allotment and Newby Moss areas.

Overall, the transition of permit control from Ingleborough Estate to the CNCC has been very smooth despite the slight delay on 5<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Leck Fell – Geoff Whittaker (acting meets secretary up to 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015)**

Since the last Committee meeting in September, there has been a lot of activity in the requests for permits for caves and potholes on Leck Fell. Between September and the end of December a further 14 clubs were requesting permits, making the total number of 50 individual clubs requesting permits during 2014. So far this year, 25 clubs have already been requesting permits for 2015. The breakdown of the number of permits issued since last September as follows:

- September 2014 – 10
- October 2014 – 18
- November 2014 – 29
- December 2014 – 36

So far in 2015, the breakdown is as follows:

- January 2015 – 26
- February 2015 – 21
- March 2015 – 20
- To date so far from July 2015 onwards – 28

The most popular potholes requested have been Lost John's, Notts 2, Notts Pot, Shuttleworth Pot and Short Drop/Gavel Pot in that order.

At the moment, there is limited permit availability left at weekends up to the end of March 2015. There have been no issues reported from the Estate Office, so hopefully everything is still progressing smoothly.

### **Leck Fell – Jim Sloane**

Very many thanks to Mr Geoff Whittaker for his sterling work in my absence. I have just this week (5<sup>th</sup> January) taken over again and as such this will be a brief report.

So far since the AGM last year a quick count shows that 42 clubs have now been issued with permits. This is several less than at the same time last year, however demand has been quite buoyant over the past couple of months.

Going forward 7<sup>th</sup> Feb, 14<sup>th</sup> Feb, 15<sup>th</sup> Feb, 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 8<sup>th</sup> March and 21<sup>st</sup> March are now fully booked, but there is availability on all other dates.

In relation to the future I shall be either relinquishing this role altogether as of the AGM or may agree to continue in a 'job share' capacity. Work related and family issues have determined that this will have to be the case. As such plans therefore now need to be made by the committee.

### **Note regarding Fountain's Fell/Penyghent meets secretary position – Matt Ewles**

Malcolm Hughes has announced that he is standing down as meets secretary for this area; a replacement meets secretary is required. The role no longer entails Fountain's Fell (Gingling Hole and Hammer Pot), as these are free from permit requirements now, therefore, this role should be renamed simply as 'Penyghent' meets secretary, and will cover Dale Head Pot, Penyghent Pot and those in the Little Hull/Hunt Pot area.

Any interested parties please get in touch.

### **Other areas**

Nothing to report for any other areas.