

# CNCC ANNUAL REPORT

# 1993



## COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

The CNCC A.G.M. will be held

on 27 March at 10.00 am.

at The Ingleton Community centre

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of 1992 A.G.M.. (previously circulated).
3. Matters arising from the minutes.
4. Officers reports:
  - 1) Chairman
  - 2) Secretary
  - 3) Asst. Secretary
  - 4) Treasurer
  - 5) Access and Conservation Officer
5. Meets secretaries/Access areas:
  - 1) Leck
  - 2) Casterton
  - 3) Birks Fell/Mongo Gill
  - 4) Penyghent/Gingling/Hammer
  - 5) Other Areas
6. Applications for Membership.
7. Constitutional ammendments.
- 7a *CNCC SGM Minutes.*
8. Election of officers and committee.
9. NCA report.
10. A.O.B.
11. Date and place of next meeting.

Item 8:Election of officers and committee.

Chairman: R.Myers, prepared to stand again.

Secretary: L.Sykes, prepared to stand again.

Treasurer: D.Shepherd, prepared to stand again.

Access and conservation: P.Parker.

Assistant secretary: Position vacant.

Current committee: Association of Nidderdale Trogs,Bradford pothole club,Burnley caving club,Dent house speleological soc,White rose pothole club,South Ribble caving club,Yorkshire Subterranean soc.

National Caving Association

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Minutes of the A.G.M. held on 27.03.93 at the Ingleton Community centre, Ingleton. Chaired by R. Myers.

Present: G. Barber(EN), P. Muckalt(RRCPC), B. Bond(CRO/BCC), P. Allwright(DHSS), P. Ramsden(FTA), A. Bolton(YSS), K. Lunt(LCCC), B. Osborne(LCCC), R. Halliwell(CPC), P. Halliwell(CPC), B. Henry(LUG), J. Sloane(LUG), H. Lomas(YR), J. Harland(AC), R. Myers(CPC/Chairman), L. Sykes(LUG/Secretary), C. Danilewicz(NPC), D. Leonard(ANT).

Apologies: T. Flanagan, D. Shepherd, P. Parker, S. Marshall, Westminster Speleo GP, East Dorset Speleo Soc, R. Holmes.

Minutes of the 1992 A.G.M.: Previously circulated, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising from the minutes: None.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Chairman: The chairman addressed the meeting regarding the N.C.A. re-structuring, and how it could affect the CNCC, with the then proposed constitutional changes to the NCA. R.M. then gave a brief report on the result of the NCA AGM, and that the amendments that the CNCC had voted on to be changed at the NCA SGM, were either withdrawn (due to another regional council voting against it) or was amended to what we wanted. Over all R.M. stated that he was still not sure what the eventual outcome would be, when these changes eventually take place. P.R. aired his views on this subject as it differed from R.M. There was a debate in which a number of theories were expressed on which direction(s) the NCA could go.

Secretary: the Secretary produced a written report, which was accepted by the meeting.

Treasurer: In the absence of the treasurer the secretary gave a brief report made from the balance sheet for the period ending 31.12.92. Subscriptions for the following year are to remain at £10.

Access and Conservation: P. Parker sent a written report. It was agreed at the meeting that the CNCC should make a considerable input into The National Cave Conservation Plan, before one is enforced upon us. A number of conservation issues from around the Dales were raised, and it was decided that a Regional Conservation Policy should be adopted by the CNCC and its member clubs. What is clear is that conservation is fast becoming a dominant issue and it may be time to divide the post of access and conservation so that more time can be devoted to the two issues, this change could take place next AGM with a constitutional change. The CNCC may be holding a conservation meeting to discuss the conservation side of caving in more detail.

MEETS SECRETARIES:

Leck Fell: Leck fell is virtually fully booked for most of the remaining months at week-ends. There are still a number of mid-week bookings left. There have been two incidents, one a complaint from SWCC which the secretary resolved. The other involving a club on Leck fell, the club and secretary to resolve the issue with the estate.

Casterton fell and Pippikin: Mid-week trips to Link, Pippikin and Mistral are on the increase, unfortunately the permit requests are not, these caves should not be approached from Bull pot farm and are closed as for Leck fell close season, see handbook. This sort of access abuse could well effect access in the future. A letter from the Land owner Mr. Bowering was read out to the meeting at his request by P. Muckalt. He raised the following points, but, these were not the only points raised by him. Correct route to the pots, that the fell is private land and does have SSSI status, he expressed concern about the use of unofficial footpaths and the degree of erosion on these paths. We feel that it is about time to try and discuss and

maybe negotiate an agreement with the owner, all agree that the issue of temporary access arrangements has gone on too long, an attempt to get something concrete must be made, P.M. will discuss it with RRCPC and R.M. is to arrange a meet with the estate, There is now NO charge for mid-week permits for this fell, all that is required is to write to: T.G. Bowering, Hawkshead Farm, Halton Park, LA2 6PD, Tel: Halton-on-Lune 811361, send SAE.

Penyghent/Fountains Fell: A written report was received, the secretary read a letter from S.M. over concerns about the state of the formations in Hagg Gill, it appears that the cave is gradually being ruined, as parties of in-experienced cavers and novices have been using it, To this end the CNCC has issued a note to appear in the caving press and the secretary will try and contact all caving centres to inform them of the following, *YOU ARE ADVISED THAT HAGG GILL IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO DAMAGE FROM INEXPERIENCED CAVERS AND THE CNCC DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT THIS CAVE IS ATTEMPTED BY NOVICE CAVERS*, The situation will be carefully monitored throughout the year and a report produced for the 1994 AGM.

Birks Fell/Mongo Gill: R. Halliwell presented a written report.

Applications for membership:

The following clubs applications were accepted for CNCC membership, Brynmawr Caving Club CCC members, Pennine Sport and Leisure, prop, Eldon P.C. sec. L.U.6.

Constitutional amendments: None were received.

CNCC SGM Minutes: A copy of the minutes is enclosed in this report, The SGM minutes were read and signed as a true record.

Election of officers and committee: There were no applications for any officer posts, all officers were prepared to serve for the following year, Airedale caving club filled the vacant position on the ordinary committee.

NCA Report: P.R. went over the NCA training co-ordinator report, and has a report enclosed, The secretary gave a brief report from the NCA AGM which included: The claiming of NCA expenses for Council meeting when discussing access, The increase of the petrol allowance from 8p.p.m. to 10p.p.m, Speleoscene it would appear it is yet to break even, more sales have to be made than at present, the editor may not be able to continue in this post due to work commitments, A new NCA constitution will be circulated as soon as possible, Regional body subs to rise by 10% to the nearest £5.

A.O.B.: There was a discussion generated by P.R. over how the CNCC was going to approach training in the future, the secretary explained that when he has requested suggestions from the clubs none have been forthcoming, Clubs are reminded that permit requests should be on club note paper, and are signed by an officer of the club, as stated in the hand book.

Date and place on next meeting: The next committee meeting will be held on the 04 June 1993 at 20.00 at The Station Inn Ribbleshead.

L. Sykes  
Hon. Secretary.

Signed as a true record, ... *R. Myers* ..... Chairman

## COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Secretaries report to the 1993 Annual General Meeting.

Once again a busy administrative year, with an ever increasing work load to fight through, correspondence with all the associated bodies (Sports council, ect.ect.) has hit an all time high, as with the frequency of meetings. During the year I have attended all the The Northwest federation for sport, recreation and conservation meetings and also sit on the sub committee to monitor the impact of the Governments new sport in the countryside policy, this policy could ultimately affect caving as it concerns 'sports in the wild areas'. I have attended most of the NCA equipment committee meetings during the past 12 months, mainly to report on the progress of the re-bolting, but, wider equipment issues have also been discussed at these meetings.

The re-bolting is well under way now, thanks to the grant aid of £1500 from the sports council Northern region. The potholes that have been re-bolted to present include: Notts pot (centre route), New Goyden, Swinsto, Simpsons, Cow pot, Lancaster hole, Top sink, Pool sink, Heron pot, GG (Dihedral) and Alum pot.

During the summer the following will be re-bolted: Jingling, Tatham wife, Rowten pot, Bull pot (kingsdale) and Sell gill holes.

I would like to thank all the clubs and cavers who have given their free time up (good caving time), to re-bolt the Northern caves and potholes. The re-bolting program has progressed fairly well, and we are still experimenting with methods of instalment in an effort to attain a stronger bond. Should there be any clubs wishing to partake in the re-bolting, all that is required, is to let me know what cave you want to re-bolt, then I will supply the hangers and resin, free. All you have to do is stick them in.

During the preparation of the CNCC handbook, I visited a large number of farmers, those that I didn't visit were sent a questionnaire, the purpose, to ensure that the info was correct and see what the general feeling was about cavers. From the farmers that I spoke to, I got the impression that on the whole, they were satisfied with the way in which cavers conduct themselves in the pursuit of their sport, the same could not be said for walkers and bikers.

I can only ask, that we continue to ask for permission where required, and take our rubbish home, to maintain friendly relations with those who land we cross.

The CNCC handbook is now completed, and one copy will be sent to the club secretaries during the coming week free of charge, further copies are available from the CNCC secretary price £1 +38p. P&P.

The past 12 months has seen an increase in the number of new clubs joining the CNCC, and at the end of 1992, 115 clubs had CNCC membership, this increase has reflected in the number of permit applications especially for Leck fell, from which I have received a couple of complaints from clubs who thought that they could have as many permits, as they liked.



The 'Newsletter' has continued to be produced in 1992, but, as I said at the 1992 AGM, it is a waste of time producing it, if the club secretaries do not pass on the info. Any part of the newsletter can be copied and circulated within caving, without permission. The CNCC also receives newsletters/info sheets from the other regional bodies, the relevant info is taken from these and reproduced in the CNCC newsletters, should you require a copy/ies of other regional bodies newsletters/info sheets, send 10p per copy + SAE, these will be sent out in the return post.

All the recent Sports Council, Northwest Federation of Sport recreation and Conservation and National Coaching federation publications, may also be borrowed or copied.

1992 saw a fresh assault on the re-structuring of the N.C.A. with the formation of the Special committee on structure, which met on a regular basis. The committee's convenor produced a full report that was adopted at the N.C.A. S.G.M. A large number of C.N.C.C. clubs called for a S.G.M. to consider the proposed constitutional changes to the N.C.A. The minutes and amended proposals will be circulated with the C.N.C.C. A.G.M. minutes and reports. The program of re-structuring will take a number of years to complete, and no doubt will be modified as it progresses, to satisfy the regional differences.

It is intended to create more training events in 1993, we hope to run a first aid course for cavers and a cave photography workshop in the near future, we will endeavour to establish a syllabus for caver first-aid, before the first-aid course.

To keep the CNCC's running costs to a minimum, I ask that where a reply is required, subs receipts returned, ect. ect. a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed. The largest amount of my expenses is that area covered by postage.

We have been asked by D.Irwin to start collating the information for the initiation of a National cave registry, at present I am collecting this info, but, should anyone have a burning desire to take this task on, please let me know. Like wise should you know of any rock shelters, caves and potholes that are not in the cave guides, please let me know, they will be kept secret if required.

Over the past years, archaeological artifacts have been lost during cave exploration, with this in mind, it is intended to establish within the CNCC, an archaeological co-ordinator. At present I am not sure whether this should be a separate non voting post, or try and extend the duties of the Access & Conservation Officer, what ever happens we have to have an efficient system of recording finds and data.

I am prepared to stand again as secretary.

Les. Sykes  
Hon. secretary

Income & Expenditure Account  
For the year ended 31st December, 1992

Income

Subscriptions / Grants	3570
Building Society Interest	70
	<hr/>
	3640

Expenditure

Insurance	350	
Subscriptions	295	
Printing/Stationery	-	
Officers Expenses	309	
Audit	47	
Emergency Telephone	219	
Repairs/Equipment	949	
	<hr/>	2169

Surplus

1471

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Assets

Cash and Bank	1584	
Nat. & Prov. Building Society	-	
Britannia Building Society	<u>4633</u>	6217


Liabilities

Subscriptions Paid In Advance	500	
Creditor	<u>47</u>	(547)
		<u>£ 5670</u>

Accumulated Funds

Balance Brought Forward		4199
Surplus		<u>1471</u>
		<u>£ 5670</u>

Prepared by:-

  
Dymond, Ashworth & Co.,  
19 Ormerod Road,  
Burnley.

Date: 22nd March, 1993.



## National Caving Association

### THE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

#### Conservation and Access Officer's Report to the 1993 A.G.M.

First of all I must apologise for my absence, owing to circumstances somewhat beyond my control I needs must be some two hundred and fifty miles south of Ingleton for the weekend.

Turning to the events of the last twelve months I think that it can be said that we have had another year free of major incident. However that does not mean that the future will be an easy one. The storm clouds continue to gather in the shape of outside interest in cave conservation, health and the Radon scare and the very gradual move towards charges for access to the countryside,

Looking at some individual matters and following in the steps of last year's A.G.M. report and more recent committee meeting reports I will start with Strans Gill Pot. The official line emanating from the National Trust was found to be that there was no possibility of in-filling of the entrance and that access was being refused by the tenant on the grounds of potential damage to a SSSI. However in the course of checking information for the new handbook Les (Sykes) has managed some very fast talking and has negotiated an access arrangement with the tenant farmer - see the new handbook.

The situation on Casterton Fell shows no change from last year and future developments depend upon the outcome of the legal "discussions" between the Red Rose and their landlord. Further information will be forthcoming from Peter (Muckalt) in the course of his report.

Leck Fell continues to have minor crises which seem to arise from the odd stupidity shown by visitors to the Fell when parking or dealing with the gamekeeper. We have had no official communication about amendments to the access agreement, a subject that originally arose some three years ago but has not been mentioned since. No doubt the matter will be resurrected at some time in the future.

Boreham Cave is still the subject of closure by the tenant farmer - negotiations at this important site are being handled by a member of the C.D.G.

There are some problems on Ingleborough in connection with certain digging activities which have not met with the approval of the Ingleborough Management Committee, despite careful stockproofing. We have been contacted by

the Committee and are currently awaiting a response to our last letter - which was an offer to go and inspect and discuss the matter 'up on the hill'!

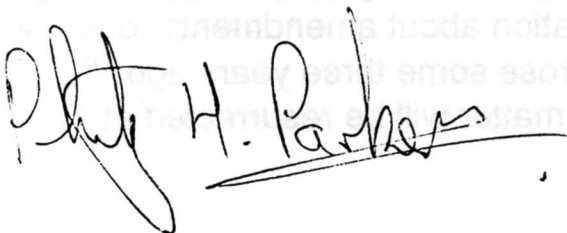
The matter of the gating of Knock Fell Caverns by English Nature has reached the stage of arranging a meeting with the responsible Senior Site Manager to discuss the situation and negotiate an access arrangement. Unfortunately progress is being delayed by potential re-organisation within English Nature - so watch this space!

Finally, on the access front, it is good to see that a new handbook is appearing and to congratulate Les on the excellent work that he has done in producing this document, both in the quality of information and in the new design and layout.

Turning from access to conservation I am able to report that a long over-due C.N.C.C. detailed response has been made to the first draft of the N.C.A./English Nature Cave Conservation Policy document. A revised draft is due to be published within the next few weeks.

It should be noted by all of you that cave conservation gradually is going to assume a much higher profile than it has in the past. It is clear from discussions, both with the C & A officers of our fellow regional bodies and other interested parties, that if the caving community does not promote an active and effective conservation policy **someone else will do it for us**. No doubt you will be able to work out for yourselves the possible (probable) long-term effect that such a happening would have on cave access.

In this connection it is pleasing to hear that the Red Rose have taken a major initiative by appointing a conservation officer and starting to take action to 'clean up' and deal with some of the problems that affect the Easegill system. It would be sensible for other clubs to follow their lead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P H Parker', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

**P H Parker**  
Conservation and Access Officer

# Council of Northern Caving Clubs

## Meets Secretary's Report for Birks Fell & Mongo Gill

### General

This is my fourth year as access controller and I know of no problems regarding access to Mongo or Birks Fell.

### Birks Fell

The National Trust have made no comment on the working of the Access agreement to date. For the record I have continued my predecessor's tradition of giving statistics of past years' permits. Bookings remain heavy with 32 (42) bookings already made for 1993. The increase in the number of multiple bookings made by a small number of clubs which was commented on last year, has not continued in to 1993.

1977	32	1981	50	1985	46	1989	32
1978	35	1982	47	1986	55	1990	25
1979	40	1983	52	1987	44	1991	41
1980	41	1984	63	1988	28	1992	49

Average number per year for the last 10 years - 43 (43)

### Mongo Gill

No access problems to report. The number of midweek bookings has remained constant at 55%. Some 51% of the bookings are made by the UK Landforces School of Adventurous Training, virtually all of these are midweek. For 1993 there are currently 31 (20) bookings with 16 (8) of these being midweek.

1981	28	1984	44	1987	29	1990	38
1982	39	1985	24	1988	36	1991	36
1983	30	1986	28	1989	38	1992	43

Average number per year for the last 10 years - 35 (34)

### How Gill Nick

As part of the agreement under which White Rose CPC were given permission to dig this site, it was stipulated that if the dig was successful then CNCC should control access to the new cave. So far the dig has remained stubbornly unsuccessful and may be abandoned.

*Ric Halliwell*

File : CNCC93  
23 March 1993

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS.  
PENYGHENT & FOUNTAINS FELL.

A.G.M. 1993.

1992/1993 has been a very quiet year with no major problems.  
In fact, access has been improved-- all caves/pots on Neals  
Ing land are no longer under the permit system and only Gingling  
Hole/Sinks and Hammer are 'permissible' on Rainscar House  
land.

140 permits have been issued for 1993 so far, the major holes  
having lots of interest shown!

Question...If access to caves is going well, farmers and  
landowners and member clubs are happy with that access, things  
must be going well - why should anything change??...just  
a thought that keeps cropping up in my tiny brain!!  
No one else in B.P.C. seems willing to take on the job of  
meets secretary for this area so I am happy to continue despite  
this and frequent apologies for non attendance at meetings.

Regards,

*Stuart*

Stuart Marshall.

# COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT INGLEBOROUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 06 MARCH 1993

Present: K, Lunt, LCCC, L, Sykes LUG, J, Sloane LUG, S, Jackson LUG, N, Farnshaw BCC, B, Bond BCC, G, Barber EN, J, Green PP, A, Bolton YSS, P, Allwright DHSS, D, Shipley DHSS, G, Jones WSG, S, Byatt DCPC, A, Polly DCPC, P, Parker WRPC, M, Harrtland BPC, A, Hodgson RRCPC, L, Ward SCC, R, Ward SCC, H, Lomas YR, B, Andrew ACC, J, Harland ACC, R, Myers CPC, D, Mellor CPC, J, Potts DCA.

Apologies: P, Ramsden, D, Shepherd.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed constitutional changes for the 1993 NCA AGM. It was decided to go through the proposals one at a time so that possible implications to the CNCC would be fully debated.

P, Parker gave a little background info about the changes and explained that the CCC had presented them at the 1992 AGM and they were vetoed by the DCA. J, Potts then gave the reasons why the DCA had voted against them last year.

Proposals, 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.4.1, 1.4.2, 1.4.3 & 1.4.4. The meeting accepted these proposals.

Proposal, 1.4.5. R, M. Reiterated his fears over the possibility of excessive access to the Northern access agreements, and the wording of 1.4.5. P, P. stated that he did see a problem as far as far as Northern access agreements were concerned.

Proposals, 1.5.1, 1.5.2. The meeting accepted these proposals.

Proposals, 1.6.1, 1.6.2, 1.6.3, 1.6.4, 1.6.5. The meeting accepted these proposals.

Proposals, 1.6.6. There was full debate on this proposal, particularly the wording and it's interpretation. Many thought that the NCA should not have the power to expel constitute bodies, and that it could lead to problems in the future. J, P. gave some hypothetical theories over what could happen, this prompted some from the floor. The meeting decided that it would not vote in favour of this proposal at the AGM. The meeting voted. In favour of not accepting this proposal 13 there was one abstention.

Proposal, 1.6.7. The meeting accepted this proposal.

Proposal, 1.7.1. After much discussion an amended proposal was received from BPC, seconded by YR, to read that: 'that the association may be dissolved by a vote of 83% in favour of those present'. This was carried, in favour 13, with 1 abstention.

Proposals, 1.7.2, 1.7.3, 1.8.1, 1.8.2, & 1.8.3. The meeting accepted these proposals.

The following proposals are organisational changes to be proposed at the NCA AGM.

Proposals, 2.1. A considerable debate over the changes to 1993 subs to the NCA from constitute<sup>nt</sup> bodies, the problem of trying to find a fair system appears to be a lengthy one, and may take till the 1994 AGM to solve, but, financial changes are being sought.

Proposals, 2.2. The meeting accepted this proposal.

Proposals, 3.1. The meeting accepted this proposal.

Proposals, 3,2 & 3,3. There was a long debate over the possible long term effects of these proposals might have on the CNCC, and it's membership. The possible availability of permits for NCA clubs that were not CNCC members was also discussed, and how this would ultimately effect the agreements and access. An amended proposal for 3,2 was received from BPC seconded by CPC which read, 'The 1994 AGM should consider the desirability of creating direct club membership of the association'. A similar amended proposal for 3,3 was also received from BPC and seconded by CPC to read 'The 1995 AGM should consider the desirability of creating direct individual membership of the association'. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of these two amended proposals.

Proposals, 4,1, & 4,2. The meeting accepted these proposals.

Proposals, 5,1, 5,2, 5,3, 5,4. The question of what the development officer was actually going to do was asked, the terms of reference have not yet been defined, other than this the meeting accepted these proposals.

Proposals, 6,1, 6,2, 6,3, 6,4. Some members thought that the implementation of BS5750 in respect of fixed aids in caves to be virtually impossible, other than this the meeting accepted these proposals.

Proposals, 7,1. An amendment was received from BPC and seconded by YR that the word 'commissioned' be replaced with 'asked'; the meeting voted unanimously in favour of this amended word.

Proposals, 8,2, 8,3, 8,4, 8,5. The meeting accepted these proposals.

Proposals, 9,1, 9,2. The meeting accepted these proposals.

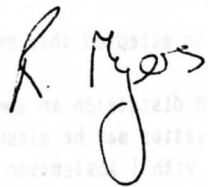
Proposals, 10,1, 10,2. The meeting accepted these proposals.

Proposals, 11,1 11,2. The meeting accepted these proposals.

Proposals, 12,1, 12,2, 12,3. The meeting accepted these proposals.

The following delegates from the CNCC will attend the NCA AGM on 20.03.93 in Stafford.

R. Myers CPC, L.Sykes LUG, P.Parker WRPC, J.Harland ACC.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Myers'. The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'M' and a long, sweeping underline.



REPORT OF THE CNCC REPRESENTATIVE ON THE NCA TRAINING COMMITTEE  
TO THE 1993 CNCC AGM

CNCC should consider whether it wants to organise a training event, as opposed to this being done by clubs or other organisations. Last year we proposed to have an event, which did not happen because of last minute heavy work load by the Hon. Secretary, this meant an under spend by the NCA.

I am quite willing to organise training events but I am conscious that in my position as a professional caver, this may be mis-understood, as may be the case in other regions.

I am concerned at the variety of new bolts appearing, which are often not well sited in respect to ease of access, avoiding water or potential fall factors. Every effort to ensure high standards must be taken when permanent anchors are being placed. It is impossible to suit every ones idea of perfect siting for an anchor, but it is worth repeating: get two experienced pitch hangers to discuss the site, before drilling. Hold up a rope to check for rub points. Generally as high as reasonably possible, will ensure that by the time a krab/mallion or rope loop is attached it will still give a shoulder high traverse/take off. Waist high or less when it could easily be higher is ridiculous.

For quality assurance purposes details of fixing should be logged.

P. Parker attended the NCA Special committee on structure, and access and conservation meetings. L. Sykes attended the Equipment committee meetings.

I am willing to to continue to represent the CNCC on the training committee.

It is important that reps are found to attend the committees for equipment and conservation and access as well as the NCA executive committee.

Paul Ramsden