

THE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1972

To be held on Saturday 20th May at 3.00 pm
at the Marton Arms, Thornton, Ingleton.

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting
2. Chairman's Report
3. Secretary's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Grant Aid through National Caving Association
6. Membership and proposed amendment to Constitution

6.1 It is proposed that clauses 13, 13a, 13b shall be replaced by the following:-

"Applications for membership must be proposed and seconded by member clubs before being accepted by the committee.

Newly elected clubs shall pay an entrance fee of £1.00

Election shall be to a class of Associate Membership and after a period of 12 months a club can apply for full membership, which shall be decided by the committee.

Full and Associate member clubs shall pay an annual subscription of ~~£2.00~~ due on 1st ~~April~~ ^{June} each year. Clubs which are 2 years or more in arrears with subscriptions shall be deemed to be defunct or to have resigned. After 1 year in arrears, applications for access to Council Controlled areas shall be refused"

Sentence. →

7. Area Reports
8. Access - General situation
9. Yorkshire Dales National Park - Future administration and policies
10. Dumping of refuse in cave entrances
11. Any Other Business

J. Rasdell,
Hon. Secretary.

THE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Annual General Meeting held on
Saturday 20th May 1972 at the
Marton Arms, Ingleton.

The following clubs were represented:

Bradford Pothole Club	Northern Spel. Group
Craven Pothole Club	Red Rose Cave & Pothole Club
Gritstone Club	Rolls Royce Spel. Group
Kendal Caving Club	Sunderland Caving Club
Northern Pennine Club	Yorkshire Subterranean Society
Northern Scout Caving Group	

Apologies for absence were received from:

Hyperion Club

Item 1 Minutes of the 1971 AGM

The minutes were read and accepted following confirmation of two corrections:

- Item 4: 'Peter Burns' should read 'Peter Bayes'
- Item 8: 'Yorkshire Subterranean Society' should read 'Craven Pothole Club'

Item 2 Chairman's Statement

Roger Sutcliffe gave a warning that the coming year seemed likely to be a crucial one in which the Council would need very much more support from clubs than it has been getting. On the one hand, cavers are undermining the Council's credibility by allowing relations with farmers and landowners to deteriorate. On the other hand, they are at last gaining recognition from the official bodies which are going to have an increasing influence on our sport, whether we like it or not. Future policies on such things as National Park administration and grant aid for sport are at present under review and if caving clubs want their needs to be considered, they must adopt a much more responsible and co-ordinated attitude.

Item 3 Secretary's Report

Jack Rasdell reported that three Committee Meetings had been held since the last AGM. Access arrangements in areas subject to agreement with landowners had, on the whole been satisfactory but difficulties were on the increase elsewhere. Red Moss Pot had been closed and little progress had been made over Mossdale Caverns or Dale Barn Cave. Long term benefits could be expected as a result of representations being made to the Department of the Environment's National Park Policies Review Committee and the Sports Council.

The Meets Secretaries and the CCPR clerical staff were thanked for their considerable help and hard work.

Item 4 Treasurer's Report

John Clarke said that the Statement of Account (copy attached) had

been audited by an accountant and that it would be advisable for the Council's books to be checked by a professional auditor every two years. He pointed out that the balance in hand had been further reduced as a result of general cost increases and the failure of quite a number of clubs to keep up to date with subscriptions. The latter situation would be helped by a clarification of the date when subs become due and the 12 month period for which it is applicable.

Item 5 Grant Aid through the National Caving Association

Following its encouraging meeting with Sports Council representatives in April (see attached report), NCA has invited Regional Councils to submit estimates of administrative expenses for the year commencing 1 April 1972 for inclusion in its grant application. The meeting expressed approval and it was suggested that if the application was accepted, it should at least be possible to distribute considerably more information to clubs and their members. The high cost of the Weather Forecast Service could be included in the application but might not be accepted by the Sports Council in view of its local significance only.

Item 6 Membership and proposed Amendments to the Constitution

Following discussion at the Committee Meeting on 11 February 1972 (see minutes previously circulated), a proposal was made regarding action to be taken where member clubs are in arrears with subscription. This was included in the following proposed Amendment to the Constitution, together with the increased subscription approved at the 1971 AGM, and a minor 'tidying-up' of the existing clauses 13, 13a and 13b:-

'13. Applications for membership must be proposed and seconded by member clubs before being accepted by the Committee. Newly elected clubs shall pay an entrance fee of £1. Election shall be to a class of Associate Membership and, after a period of 12 months, a club can apply for Full Membership, which shall be decided by the Committee.

13a. Full and Associate Member clubs shall pay an annual subscription of £2. due on 1 April each year.

13b Clubs which are 2 years or more in arrears with subscriptions shall be deemed to be defunct or to have resigned. After 1 year in arrears, applications for access to Council controlled areas shall be refused.'

After discussion, two amendments to this Proposal were carried unanimously:-

- i. that the words '1 April each year' be replaced by '1 January each year'. (prop. CPC: sec. KCC).
- ii. delete words 'of £2.' and add further sentence:

'The annual subscription for the ensuing year shall be decided at a General Meeting of the Council' (prop. KCC: sec CPC).

The full proposed Amendment to clauses 13, 13a and 13b was then voted on and carried, following revision of 13a to read:

'Full and Associate Member clubs shall pay an annual subscription due on 1 January each year. The annual subscription for the ensuing year shall be decided at a General Meeting of the Council'

Some discussion followed on the question of Associate Membership which entitles a club to all rights of membership other than a vote and is applicable to both 'probationary' northern clubs and clubs not based in the north. It has been customary to grant bookings for Council controlled pots to member clubs of other Regional Councils but the demand from such clubs is growing. It was suggested that as this northward traffic is likely to go on increasing, consideration should be given to insisting that all clubs desiring meets on Leck and Casterton Fells, Penyghent, etc. should obtain membership of the Council. This question was referred to the next General Meeting.

D. Mellor (CPC) observed that the whole of the Constitution was in need of review because it contained further anomalies and ambiguities. It was resolved (prop. CPC; sec. KCC) that a Sub-Committee be set up to study the Constitution and submit recommendations for a revised version. Ample time should be allowed for discussion of these by the Committee and by member clubs prior to calling a Special General Meeting before the end of 1972 to consider the proposals and approve the Constitution.

The Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and a representative from both the Kendal CC and Craven PC were elected to the Sub-Committee.

Item 7 Area Reports

Leck and Casterton Fells

I. Jopson reported that the farmer on Leck Fell had complained about open 'digs' on Ease Gill. These had now been covered or filled in by the Red Rose CPC. The work done by the Kendal CC in fencing Rumbling Hole and Gavel Pot and with the notice board, had been appreciated. Moorland gripping being undertaken on Casterton Fell will increase the run-off rate to the Easegill sinks. Similar work may be carried out on Leck. Grouse shoots would be taking place on Leck Fell on Saturday, 19th August and 2nd September so booking for these dates would have to be cancelled.

Penyghent

D. Backer reported no difficulties in the area covered by Agreement but the lessons of the Red Moss Pot incident should be borne in mind. For Penyghent Long Churn or the Burnrigg area always call at Top Farm or 'phone Mr. Wood on Horton 216.

Fountains Fell

Mr. Coates was only permitting visits to Gingling Hole on 12 weekends this year and Hammer Pot is still out of bounds. Requests for Gingling Hole dates in 1973 should be sent to D. Barker before the end of January.

Birks Fell, Wharfedale

Meets Secretary, D.C. Mellor, pointed out that the present Agreement with the landowner covers Birks Fell Cave only (contrary to indications in the new guide book 'Northern Caves'). Care must be taken to adhere to the conditions laid down. For pots in the same ownership in Langstrothdale, no advance booking is necessary but permission should be obtained from the respective tenant farmers. Any complaints in that area would inevitably lead to the imposition of restrictions.

Item 8 Access - general situation

Grave concern was expressed about the generally deteriorating access situation as a result of unpermitted caving activity - particularly digging. It was thought that many clubs were failing completely to draw the attention of their younger members to the almost inevitable consequences which cause hardship for all. CNCC would never make progress with unco-operative landowners as long as clubs allowed irresponsible behaviour to continue.

A secondary factor is known to be in the minds of a few landowners who are refusing access: uncertainty about their legal liability in the unlikely event of a claim following an accident. Their fears would seem to be quite unjustified but a clarification of the legal definition of a cave and the rights of access to it would be of benefit.

Item 9 Yorkshire Dales National Park - future administration & policies

The Council had been invited to send representatives to a meeting of the Review Committee set up by the Department of the Environment under the Chairmanship of Lord Sandford. J.R. Sutcliffe and M.H. Long would attend on behalf of the Council and a written statement, to be submitted in advance, was endorsed by the Meeting. This statement drew attention to the problems of access to caves and the ways in which the National Park had so far tended to aggravate rather than relieve the difficulties. Concern would also be expressed about the growing threats of quarrying and the dumping of waste.

Item 10 Dumping of refuse in Cave entrances

Caves and shakeholes are being commonly used for 'disposal' of rubbish mainly from local farms but also increasingly from sources outside the area. Recent examples mentioned were Gunnerfleet Caves (old fence wire dead cow and sheep), shakehole north of Bullpot Farm (empty cans and household waste), Larch Tree Hole (drums of chemicals).

The Chairman reported that pressure was being brought to bear on authorities to provide refuse collection services from outlying farms in the National Park and to tighter legislation against dumping.

As a result of publicity about Mr. Arthur Gemmell's survey of environmental pollution in Chapel le Dale, a co-ordinated 'clean up' campaign was being organised by several amenity bodies. Mr. Gemmell had asked CNCC whether any clubs would be prepared to volunteer specialised assistance in removing large objects, such as wrecked cars, from potholes. Material would be transported away from the site by others. Clubs willing to assist with any such projects should inform the Secretary.

Item 11 Any Other Business

There was no further business and the Meeting was closed.

