

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Agenda for Committee Meeting 19th January 2019, Hellifield Village Institute, 9:30am

Note; Hellifield Institute confirmed to be 'open for business' following issues at last meeting.

- (1) Apologies for absence
- (2) Acceptance of minutes from the October Committee meeting (these have already been through the one-month review process before making public on the website).
- (3) Any matters arising or updates on action items from the October Committee meeting?

Reminder of action items from June meeting (with update in red where status known):

Individual(s)	Action item
Matt E.	Issue June meeting minutes as final. Action complete.
Matt E.	Format Alan J's Scottish cave descriptions for website. Action ongoing at time of writing agenda and hopefully complete by meeting.
All	Seek to get more people involved in the CNCC.
Matt E.	Thank NECAFE donor but explain that this is not something we are able to take forward. Action complete and matter closed.
Matt E.	Present copies of "Caves and Karst in the Northern Dales vol 2" to landowners for Jenga Pot and Excalibur Pot. Planned meeting with landowner did not happen; books to be returned to stock for distribution elsewhere.
Kay E./Gary D.	Continue to liaise over GDPR requirements with respect to CNCC conservation volunteers. Action initiated and ongoing.
Matt E./Gary D.	Investigate costs of CNCC display for presentation to the January Committee meeting. Action no longer as relevant, as YSS have volunteered their display boards for use, meaning the total costs of the display are unlikely to exceed the £500 discretionary cap that can be agreed by Treasurer without Committee approval.
Tim A.	Finalise MoU with Langcliffe Estate representatives and circulate to CNCC Committee for period of consultation; does not need to wait until next meeting but clubs should be given a reasonable amount of time to feed comments back. Several clubs provided feedback, mostly regarding insurance, all concerns addressed. MoU is now signed, and implementation should be complete by the meeting.

Tim A.	Continue Barbondale discussions; keep Lee Paskin involved. Update required for meeting.
All	Feed back to Maz H. on any additional training requirements that anyone feels the BCA should fund. Action closed.
Maz H.	Put together a position statement for review by CNCC Committee; push back against any kind of recreational caving qualification. Update required for meeting.
Matt E.	Submit request to the BCA on behalf of CNCC for Tim A. to be co-opted onto the BCA Finance Committee. BCA say that for CNCC to have two reps on the Finance Committee would require significant justification for the Treasurer to consider, as otherwise this is likely to be deemed unfair by other regions. Consideration of response ongoing.
All	Review BCA draft safeguarding policy and feed comments either directly to BCA or to CNCC Secretary; Matt to compile comments that he receives and forward onto BCA for consideration. Action ongoing and expected to be complete by time of meeting.
Matt E	Contact David B. to see if he is interested in being the CNCC representative for the BCA Youth and Development standing committee. Action complete and David agreed to represent CNCC on the Y&D Standing Committee and report back as appropriate.
Andrew H./ Matt E./ Tim A.	Arrange a meeting to discuss what changes we feel are necessary in the BCA and bring these to January Committee meeting. Dedicated agenda item to discuss this.
Matt E.	Contact the installer of the KMC steps to inform them that the CNCC wishes for these to be removed and separately discuss with Simon Wilson for advice. Installer contacted however may not be able to remove immediately. Simon also made aware. Action ongoing.

(4) Reports (will be made available approx one week before meeting)

- a. Chairman's report – Andrew Hinde
- b. Secretary's report – Matt Ewles
- c. Treasurer's report – Pete Bann
- d. Conservation Officer's report – Kay Easton
- e. Training Officer's report – Maz Holloway
- f. Access Officer's report – Tim Allen
- g. Other reports (optional): Webmaster/BCA rep/E&T rep/anchor coordinator
- h. Meets secretary and Online Booking System administrator reports (optional)

(5) CNCC Mission Statement

The CNCC lacks a 'mission statement'. Although the line 'Working together for Northern Caving' has been in use for the past four years, this is not a mission statement.

A mission statement may not add much regarding our interactions with cavers who already know what the CNCC does and what we stand for. However, feedback from our Chair and Access Officer has been that such a statement would be beneficial when collaborating with outside bodies who are perhaps not clear on what the CNCC does. A mission statement should, in just a few sentences, summarise the mission/vision of the CNCC in a clear concise way.

Please send ideas to CNCC Secretary by Sunday 13th January (i.e. one week BEFORE the meeting). Officers will then use these to try to compile a few suggested mission statements as a starting point for discussions, refinement and hopefully approval at the meeting.

Example mission statements from other like-minded or related organisations

BMC mission statement

The BMC promotes the interests of climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers and the freedom to enjoy their activities. Through a democratic structure the BMC will:

- Negotiate access improvements and promote cliff and mountain conservation
- Promote and advise on good practice, facilities, training and equipment
- Support events and specialist programmes including youth and excellence
- Provide services and information for members

Yorkshire Dales National Park mission statement

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority exists to secure for the public good the conservation, enhancement, enjoyment and better understanding of the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales: its landscape, wildlife, and cultural heritage.

Our aim is that, through our passion for this special place, we will inspire local communities and businesses to ensure the Yorkshire Dales National Park is a thriving area. Its unique cultural landscape will be treasured by those who live here and those who visit for its stunning scenery, exceptional heritage and wonderful wildlife.

We strive to deliver high quality efficient and welcoming services that are effective in helping ourselves and others to achieve that aim.

We want to be widely recognised as a centre of expertise and excellence in conservation and recreation policy and practice.

The Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. (US organisation) mission statement:

The SCCI's mission is to conserve caves to preserve areas of scenic beauty, provide recreational access and opportunities, protect cultural and biological resources, and support scientific research.

National Speleological Society (US organisation) mission statement:

The National Speleological Society (NSS) is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to the scientific study of caves and karst; protecting caves and their natural contents through conservation, ownership, stewardship, and public education; and promoting responsible cave exploration and fellowship among those interested in caves.

(6) CNCC suggestions/motions on BCA reform

At the last meeting it was suggested that the CNCC could take a leading role in pushing for modernisation/reform of the British Caving Association. It seems that the best means for us to achieve this would be through participation in the BCA's vision working group, established at the 2018 Annual General Meeting and headed up by Hellie Adams. This is open to anyone who wishes to participate, and which is scheduled to report conclusions to the 2020 BCA Annual General Meeting. We have already enlisted the CNCC (represented by Matt Ewles) onto this working group and a first meeting is planned for February 2019.

This agenda item will be an open discussion on ideas for BCA reform from a CNCC perspective. Bring your ideas! Some initial thoughts include (but are not limited to) the following areas:

- **Universal membership (one member = one vote, no club/group voting).**
 - Would simplify voting and BCA structure.
- **Improved clarity of BCA structure and simplification.**
 - To make the BCA an easier organisation to understand.
 - Hopefully encourage more people to get involved.
- **Substantial rewrite of BCA constitution based on outcomes of vision group.**
 - Including critical re-examination of all points; not just tweaks.
- **Substantial overhaul of BCA website.**
 - Clear division of public and member areas and a more appealing public front end to better promote caving and build on links with other organisations.
- **Greater BCA self-promotion of what it does and why people should be members.**
 - Strategic use of social media and modern tech to engage with membership.
 - Better promotion of what the BCA does; and what benefits it brings to caving.
 - Efforts to build caver interest and support for BCA's efforts.
 - Evolution of the BCA newsletter.
- **Improving engagement with members via electronic voting.**
 - A means for all members to get democratically involved in key decision making without physical meeting attendance. Could be done via BCA online?

(7) High Birkwith area access

Following recent access issues at High Birkwith, covering Calf Holes, Old Ing, Birkwith Cave etc. (see CNCC news article on website, Facebook and UK Caving, 3rd December), and the significance of this, the matter has been put onto the agenda as an opportunity for discussions. This agenda item may not be needed depending on the situation at the time of the meeting.

(8) Date and time of next meeting

Annual General Meeting Saturday 9th March 2019, Hellifield Village Institute, 10am.

**Reminder of deadline for Officer/Committee applications to be submitted to the Secretary:
Saturday 12th January 2019**

(9) Any other business?

We have an anticipated proposal on Crackpot Cave clean-up. The proposal is being compiled by Andrew Hinde and Rowan Worsman but was not available at time of issuing this agenda. Hence this has been tabled under Any Other Business. To be discussed at meeting if proposal finalised.