

THE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Morton Arms on the 21st May 1966.

1. The Minutes of the 1965 A.G.M. were read and accepted as a correct record.
2. The Chairman, Mr. J.R. Sutcliffe, stressed the need for continued good relations with farmers and landowners. He introduced the idea of appointing a publicity officer to further this aim.
3. The Secretary's Report was circulated. A copy is attached.
4. The Treasurer's Report was circulated and Mr. H. Long pointed out that a number of subscriptions are still over due. A copy is attached.
5. Appointment of Meets Secretary. It was pointed out that the reason Mr. M. Melvin was giving up the job was pressure of work, due to the amount of applications for meets. It was suggested and agreed that the work should be split into two sections. Mr. J. Morgan and Mr. J. Rasdell were appointed.

Future applications for meets on Leck or Casterton Fells should be sent to:-

J. Morgan,  
23, Rimington Avenue,  
COLNE, Lancs.

Applications for meets on Penyghent, Fountains Fell and Mongo Ghyll should be sent to:-

J. Rasdell,  
76, St. Mary's Avenue,  
BARNOLDSWICK,  
Nr. Colne, Lancs.

The meeting confirmed that one month's clear notice of bookings should be given. Club Meets Secretaries should also give alternative dates whenever possible.

6. Access Reports

Leck and Casterton:

H. Long and T. Sykes met the landowners on the morning of the A.G.M.

- (a) Litter on Leck - The Gritstone club offered to clear. Clubs are reminded that no litter should be left on the fells.
- (b) Complaint by gamekeeper that water had been diverted from Lost Pot and not been re-diverted. There was some discussion on this matter and it was decided to write to the club concerned to arrange for the job to be put right.
- (c) Two changes are imminent.

Arthur Swettenham is retiring and the new gamekeeper is Bill Hornett. Mr. Scarr is moving from Gale Garth.

It was agreed that a permit will be designed and issued by the Meets Secretary. This will be left at Gale Garth when visiting Casterton Fell or Leck Lodge for Leck Fell. (A similar system will also be adopted for other areas.)

Swinsto:

It has still not been possible to arrange a meeting with the landowner. This is being made more difficult by clubs opening up new digs on this land without permission. The meeting agreed that clubs should be asked not to dig on the Swinsto area until some agreement for access can be made with Mr. Shuttleworth.

New Goyden:

It was agreed that R. Sutcliffe should meet the farmer, Mr. Learoyd, to discuss a route to the pot which would suit both parties.

Mongo Ghyll:

The fence promised in the agreement had still not been erected. It was agreed that the C.P.C. and N. Cavern and Mine Group should be approached to do this work. The Council to pay a reasonable price for materials; It was agreed that the Councils future policy should be "Any club opening up a new pot should be responsible for making the entrance safe".

Mossdale:

It was agreed to accept an offer from Leeds University to negotiate on our behalf with Mr. Roberts.

Meregill:

No Change. Southar Scales Farm has still not been sold.

Alum Pot:

A member club suggested that Mr. Wilcock may now be prepared to discuss the charge for access. Agreed that T. Sykes should visit. P. Morgan pointed out that by paying for access we might affect any legal claims for a right of way.

7. National Associations

The A.G.M. confirmed the Committees decision to join other regional councils in the "Regional Councils for Caving in England". The Southern Councils suggestions for a meeting were debated. It was agreed that we should meet and provide information on grants. Four people will be appointed to attend. Some members thought that the suggested venue (Bristol at the B.S.A. National Conference, 9th - 12th September) was too far away and suggested Derbyshire as a more convenient centre. As several representative from the north will be attending this conference it was felt that this would be convenient. The Committee will appoint delegates at its next meeting.

8. Sports Councils

P. Morgan reported on the formation, work and future aims of the Lancashire Sports Council. Clubs are reminded that if they need grants for equipment or development (not building) they should complete the form sent out previously and return it to P. Morgan.

J.M. Clarke reported on the work of the Yorkshire and Humberside Sports Federation. At a recent meeting with representatives of the Council the Federation representatives had suggested new ideas of giving access mainly on a long term basis.

- (a) Invite the Press to our A.G.M. to publicise the work of the Council. This had been done and a reporter from the Craven Herald was present at the meeting.
- (b) Appoint a publicity officer. This was agreed and Mr. H. Long was appointed.
- (c) Inquire about an Insurance policy for loss and damage - the idea being that this would show landowners that we have their interests in mind and cover us against any claims. Agreed that this should be investigated.
- (d) Approach the National Farmers Union for their support. Agreed that this action could not do any harm and would be another expression of goodwill to the landowners.

9. Reference Library

M. Melvin reported that arrangements had now been made with Skipton Library. The Library is prepared to buy serious journals, recommended publications, books etc., but not newsletters which can be donated. Clubs who wish to participate should send back numbers and future publications to M. Melvin or Skipton Library, (Mr. Baldwin, librarian) for cataloguing. M. Melvin was appointed librarian.

10. Any other business

- (a) Reported that a rock fall just above the second pitch in Christmas Pot Caves, the section in a dangerous condition. Clubs please note.
- (b) Reported that now drainage dykes and rog cuts on Penyghent will cause the water to run off at great speed. This could precipitate flooding in pots in this area.
- (c) Reported a request from John Childs (liaison officer between C.R.O. and Irish C.R.O.) that leaders of any parties going to Ireland should inform J. CHILDS, 26, ST. JAMES DRIVE, HARROGATE or phone HARROGATE 5481, stating date, number of party, location etc.
- (d) Ireby Fell Cavern. Suggested that an informal booking system should be operated to avoid conjection. The meeting felt that this would be taking on unnecessary work and rejected the idea.
- (e) Clubs are reminded that Notts Pot is part of Leck Fell and should not be approached from the Ireby side.

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### Secretary's Report

Since the Annual General Meeting on the 1st May 1965, there have been Committee Meetings on the 11th June 1965, 17th September 1965, 4th December 1965 and 29th January 1966. Committee members have also attended other meetings with members of the C.C.P.R.; various sports councils; Landowners and others. The greatest efforts have been made by P. Morgan of the Earby Pothole Club at many meetings of the Lancashire Sports Council and by J. M. Clarke at meetings of the Yorkshire & Humberside Sports Federation. The results of this work may not be quickly evident but will ultimately benefit all member clubs.

The Council of Southern Caving clubs and the Derbyshire Caving Association have agreed to the proposal for a 'Regional Councils for Caving in England'. This body can, if used properly, form the basis of the National Association which we have sought.

Negotiations for access this year (1965/66) have resulted in the completion of the agreement for Mongo Ghyll Pothole; increased access to Fountains Fell; withdrawal of the close season for Hull Pot - negotiations are still continuing for access to Swinsto Pot, New Goyden Pot, Mossdale Caverns and Alum Pot.

Slow progress is still being made with the 'Know the Game' booklet on potholing and we have now received the final draft copy for comment before the publishers continue.

From instructions by the Government, local authorities, assisted by the C.C.P.R. have set up several sports councils. As previously mentioned we are strongly represented on the Executive Committee of the Councils which affect our areas. Following a meeting with representatives of the Yorkshire Council we propose to try new methods in our efforts for access to land in the National Park by inviting the Press to our A.G.M. and by considering the appointment of a Publicity Officer.

Once again I must express my gratitude for the work done by M. Melvin of the White Rose Pothole Club as Meets Secretary. This is a very difficult job and Mick finds himself compelled by pressure of work to relinquish the post. The services of the C.C.P.R. in producing and mailing our minutes are greatly appreciated and have helped me to concentrate on pressing access problems. Finally may I apologise to any member clubs who have had to wait for replies to letters over the last few months - I too plead pressure of work and comment that the local postman has a special sack mark 11, Prospect Avenue!

Membership of the Council now totals 57 Clubs of which 26 are full members and 31 associate members.

- (f) A complaint was heard via the B.A.C. Club from Mr. Jackson at Donk Gill Farm, Horton about a dig at map reference 90/830/746 which has been started without permission. Will the club concerned please write to the Secretary.
- (g) Reported that Dale Barn Cave had been blocked by the Farmer, Mr. Morphitt after an incident involving colour testing. Agreed that M. Melvin should approach the farmer.

At the Committee Meeting which followed the applications for membership were considered:

The Cave Diving Group were accepted as full members.

The Eldon Pothole Club and The Nelson Speleological Society were accepted as associate members.

T. SYKES,

Hon. Secretary.