

ENCC ANNUAL REPORT

1994



COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

The CNCC A.G.M. will be held
on 12 March 1994 at 10.00 am.
at The Ingleton Community centre

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of 1993 A.G.M.. (previously circulated).
3. Matters arising from the minutes.
4. Officers reports:
 - 1) Chairman
 - 2) Secretary
 - 3) Treasurer
 - 4) Access and Conservation officer
 - 5) Legal representative
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 amendments.
8. Election of officers and committee.
9. NCA report. **DOES THE CNCC APPROVE THE DRAFT NCA AMENDED CONSTITUTION?**
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, prepared to stand again.

Assistant secretary: Position vacant.

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

THE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Minutes of the A.G.M. held on 12.03.94
at the Ingleton community centre, Ingleton, Chaired: R. Myers

PRESENT: L. Sykes (LUG), C. Danilewicz (NPC), B. Bond (BCC/CRO), R. Holmes (DHSS), P. Allwright (DHSS), A. Hodgson (RRCPC), R. Duffy (RRCPC), M. Balmer (CCC), J. O'melia (CCC), M. Butterworth (ACC), A. Bolton (YSS), R. Halliwell (CPC), P. Parker (WRPC), D. Shepherd (EPC), R. Myers (CPC), S. Marshall (BPC), S. Byatt (DCPC).

APOLOGIES: P. Ramsden (FTA), G. Barber (PPCC), J. Green (PPCC), A. Harland (ACC), S. Mabutt (SWCC), G. Jones (WSG),

MINUTES OF THE 1993 A.G.M.:

Previously circulated, and signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: None.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

CHAIRMAN: Nothing to report.

SECRETARY:

written report presented to the meeting, copy enclosed.

There was some discussion regarding insurance cover for those placing the ECO hangers, it was decided that the matter should be raised at the N.C.A. A.G.M. as it was the N.C.A. that were providing the cover through the general B.C.R.A. insurance scheme. Should there be no positive commitment from the N.C.A. regarding insurance, then, the C.N.C.C. would seek to find it's own cover for the re-bolting. P.P. mention the fact that I was intending to formulate a separate test program for ECO hangers, I explained that it was because, I was not entirely satisfied with the present testing done at national level (N.C.A.) The results would though collated with the national results. The meeting accepted the secretaries report and thanked him for his work during the past 12 months.

TREASURER:

Written report presented to the meeting, copy enclosed.

The treasurer explained that, expenses had been claimed from the N.C.A. for C.N.C.C. officers attending committee meetings. The treasurer stated that he would apply for re-election for 1994 but would re-consider his position for 1995. The meeting accepted the treasurers report and thanked the treasurer for his work during the past 12 months.

JOINING FEE FROM 01.01.94 £5.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1995 £10

ACCESS AND CONSERVATION:

Written report presented to the meeting, copy enclosed.

RE: N.C.A. mines policy, P.P. responded to the document, and that the D.C.U.C. policy document should be re-looked at, but essentially mines should be made safe and kept open. D.H.S.S. stated that it was the intention of D.H.S.S. & D.C.P.C. to produce a conservation document for Dentdale, this would include cataloguing all cave, sinks ect. in the Dentdale catchment area. P.P. has received a letter from a member club regarding the some abuse to Krackpot cave, this is to be investigated. The conservation group is to be encouraged to actively get involved in conservation work, with a couple of field trips. The dumping of spent carbide is causing concern, this is covered in the newsletter.

LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE: No report presented to the meeting.

MEETS SECRETARIES REPORTS:

LECK:

A breakdown of the booking for 1993/1994 is enclosed. There are only 8 week-end bookings still available for 1994, however, mid-week booking are still available. Lost Johns cave, since the last rescue from the Lyle cavern area of the system, notices have been placed in the entrance series and at the entrance crawl to Lyle cavern, **THIS AREA IS EXTREMELY UN-SAFE AND SHOULD NOT BE ENTERED** you are putting yourselves at serious risk if you enter the Lyle cavern area. There is at present no intention to attempt to assess the situation or stabilise the boulders. The meets secretary was thanked for his work during 1993.

CASTERTON FELL:

Due to the condition and age of the iron ladders in Fall, stake & Stop pots it is intended to remove them in the near future, to this end the following C.N.C.C. proposal was proposed by L. Sykes and seconded P. Parker:

The C.N.C.C. support the removal of the fixed ladders in Fall, Stake & Stop pots. The ladder in Stop pot is to be re-placed by a corrosion resistant ridged ladder. Fall & Stake pots are to be provided with ECO hangers.

For the proposal: 12. Against the proposal: 0. Abstentions: 2.

BIRKS FELL MONGO GILL:

Written report presented to the meeting, copy enclosed.

The C.N.C.C. has increased the goodwill fee for the agreement from one shilling to £1 per annum. The meets secretary was thanked for his work during 1993.

PENYGHENT/GINGLING/HAMMER:

Written report presented to the meeting, copy enclosed.

Work is still continuing on the entrance to Dale head pot, but, progress is slow. The meets secretary was thanked for his work during 1993.

OTHER AREAS: No report.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Reading university caving club. C.S.C.C. members. Accepted.
Porkey potters caving club. nominated for full membership. Accepted.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS: None received.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:

The officers were re-elected en-block.

COMMITTEE:

The following clubs will form the committee for 1994.
Association of Nidderdale Troggs. Red rose cave & pothole club, Porkey potters caving club, Airedale caving club, Dent house speleological soc, Yorkshire subter. soc. Burnley caving club, Bradford pothole club.
Prop: L. Sykes. sec. R. Myers. voted in unanimously.
Assistant secretary: A. Bolton, voted in unanimously.

N. C. A:

TRAINING COMMITTEE: Report enclosed from P. Ramsden.

EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE: No separate report, see secretaries report.

N. C. A. BUSINESS:

There was a general debate regarding the proposed constitutional changes, it was decided not to mandate the delegation attending the N.C.A. A.G.M. it was felt that there were no areas within the constitutional changes that could ultimately affect the C.N.C.C. but there were reservations as to what the long term effects might be. C.N.C.C. officials stated that the membership would be kept fully informed as the changes are implemented.

A. O. B.:

The secretary requested clarification on the possibility of the C.N.C.C. providing finance for capital projects for club premises. It was felt that this would set a dangerous precedent, and would require constitutional changes. To that effect the answer would be no.

The committee and officers would like to thank the Y.S.S. for the use of their building for meetings during 1993, and have asked for continued use in 1994.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next committee meeting will be held on 10 June 1994 at the Y.S.S. hostel, The old school, Helwith bridge. Starting at 8pm. (20.00)

Les Sykes
Hon. secretary.

Signed as a true record:.....Chairman

BREAK-DOWN OF PERMITS ISSUED FOR ACCESS TO LECK FELL DURING THE 1993/1994 SEASON

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
July	0	0	0	2	1	10	8	21
August	0	0	0	0	0	7	10	17
September	0	0	0	3	1	6	7	17
October	2	0	0	1	3	9	10	25
November	0	0	1	5	2	8	8	24
December	2	3	4	5	4	6	6	30
January	0	0	0	1	2	10	9	22
February	0	0	1	2	0	8	8	19
March	0	0	5	2	0	8	8	23
	4	3	11	21	13	72	74	198

One Saturday (2 permits) lost to grouse shooting
 No permits requested on either Christmas Day (Saturday) or Boxing Day (Sunday) (2 permits each)
 Only four other weekend permits not issued during the 1993/1994 season

THE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Secretaries report to the C.N.C.C. A.G.M. 12.03.94.

Over the years the administrative work load only seems to increase, a definite increase is seen in policy documents ect. from The Sports Councils and the like. General CNCC correspondence has also increased, with the usual enquires regarding caving, clubs, ect.

The updated pages of the handbook for 1994 have now been sent to all member clubs, they are also available at, Bernies cafe, Inglesport, Bat products and Caving supplies. The cost of the handbook was increased on 01.01.94 to £2. Due to the lack of information on accommodation, I decided not to print a full run on the proposed section 4 for distribution, but, any club that wants a list of club accommodation, camp sites, bunk barns, B&B can send SAE 20p. stamp.

The C.N.C.C. ECO-RESIN rigging guide No.1 is at the printers, this rigging guide covers 12 caves and includes pull through trips. The caves covered have been re-bolted using the eco-resin hanger system. It is intended to use the profits from the sales of the rigging guide to finance the next phase of re-bolting. The price of the guide book will be kept to a minimum, and it should cost no more that £3.50p. Work has already started on the second guide book.

In an effort to keep costs down, it has been reduced from A4 size to A5, this reduction in size makes the print small, for cavers that have difficulty in reading small print, some A4 copies will be available, but, these will need to be ordered from the secretary, these large copies will not be comb bound, they will be provided with a simple plastic cover, the cost will remain as that of the A5 version.

Due to the legal implications of installing hangers for general use, a full history record of every single hanger has been produced. Each hanger has it's own reference code and number, thus, an individual hanger can be isolated should it become defective or require maintenance. The records are updated as and when each system is checked, to date every hanger that has been installed has been tested, by a visual and physical test using a bar. Any one may inspect the records, a copy of an individual caves' hanger record is available on request from the secretary 20p. per cave record + p&p. The master record will be held by the C.N.C.C. and may be inspected at any C.N.C.C. meeting. A year end copy of the master record will be sent to the N.C.A. I shall present year end 1993 copy record to the N.C.A. at the N.C.A. A.G.M.

There has been considerable controversy over the requirement and the type of tests required for the Eco resin hangers. My own view has remained un-changed, as I see no point in sheer loading every hanger, this I feel will prove to be very time consuming and, impossible at certain pitch heads due to the physical constraints of the pitch head. What ever the out come, some form of test will need to be performed on certain hangers, I shall endeavour to keep the tests as simple as possible, because at the end of the day, we want to be caving, not tied up testing hangers.

I intend to start a proper programme of testing this year, these will be destruction tests and will take place in different locations where there is a definite lithological difference in the limestone. This will require finance, but, the monies can be recouped from the rigging guide sales. All tests results will be published.

I have suggested to N.Williams and will be suggesting to the N.C.A. that a group of people should be delegated to 'fixed aids' in caves. The time that is going to be involved with re-bolting, testing, maintenance and

recording and documentation, will be considerable. I feel that a brief exchange of paper and words at an N.C.A. equipment committee meeting is not sufficient, it needs cavers who are active, experienced and dedicated to the re-bolting programme, who are prepared to give up their cave time, to provide a service to the rest of the caving community. The C.N.C.C. to some extent already has this set up, but, we are always re-mined of the National body, therefore a similar set up for fixed aids should exist nationally.

I spoke to the N.C.A. treasurer regarding finance for the next phase of re-bolting, they agree to loan us the money and we would need to fix terms of re-payment. To this end, I suggest that we tell the N.C.A. to keep their money, and the C.N.C.C. will finance it's own re-bolting programme through the sale of the guide books, as originally discussed at a committee meeting.

I have received a number of communications via phone and letters regarding the N.C.A. re-structuring. Although there appears to be considerable apathy and non-interest when N.C.A re-structuring is mentioned, a large number of cavers have shown that they feel strongly about the C.N.C.C. and it's existence, not to mention the valuable work it carries out.

To cut the cost of postage I would like to suggest that, all the dates for committee meeting for 1994 be decided at the AGM. When the AGM minutes are then circulated they will contain the agendas for each committee meeting.

As decided at the September committee meeting the joining fee will rise from £1 to £5, this is a one off payment and only effects new clubs that join as of 12.03.94, this will cover the increasing costs of initial administration and the handbook.

The CNCC newsletter has continued to be circulated, I feel that it is necessary, and a good medium for spreading information. I have invited clubs to use the newsletter as and when they wish for advertising ect. There is not dead line for articles, newsletter are produced as and when there is enough info and distributed with the minutes of meetings.

I attended a couple of the N.C.A. equipment meetings through out 1993, I started to get dis-illusioned with the direction and lack of progression and felt that my time would be better spent placing hangers in Yorkshire, to this end most of my comments to the equipment committee have been through correspondence. I shall continue to attend equipment committee meetings when it is beneficial and expedient to do so.

The national lottery consultation period is well under way, I have made some comments to the sports council regarding minority group sports, provision for back up facilities for certain sports and the need for small local projects finance without the need to compete with larger projects, this I feel would benefit organisations like the C.N.C.C.

I am prepared to stand again as secretary.

Les Sykes
Hon. secretary.

Council of Northern Caving Clubs

Meets Secretary's Report for Birks Fell & Mongo Gill

General

This is my fifth year as access controller and I know of no problems regarding access to Birks Fell. Although access has been maintained there are some problems with Mongo Gill.

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 30 (32) bookings already made for 1994, but this does represent a decrease on the pattern of a few years ago.

1977	32	1978	35	1979	40	1980	41
1981	50	1982	47	1983	52	1984	63
1985	46	1986	55	1987	44	1988	28
1989	32	1990	25	1991	41	1992	49
1993	35						

Average number per year for the last 10 years - 42 (43)

Mongo Gill

As a result of complaints to the Landowner I was asked to investigate the stability of both North Shaft and Shockle Shaft. Although I was happy that both could be passed safely by experienced cavers the Landowner has requested that remedial work be undertaken. The Burnley Caving Club have agreed to do the work required at Shockle Shaft and it is possible that Instructors from UK Landforces at Ripon may provide the labour for the work on North Shaft. Access is still being permitted whilst this work is going on. The number of mid-week bookings has dropped to 47% (55%) of the total.

1981	28	1982	39	1983	30	1984	44
1985	24	1986	28	1987	29	1988	36
1989	38	1990	38	1991	36	1992	43
1993	34						

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

Ric Halliwell

NATIONAL CAVING ASSOCIATION.
COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS.
PENYGHENT AND FOUNTAINS FELL.
MEET SECRETARY'S REPORT
A.G.M. 12th MARCH, 1994.

1993 / 1994 has been a very quiet year in terms of complaints and problems from landowners and cavers alike, which must be a good sign! Permit requests for Fountains Fell and the other areas has been extremely brisk, especially Penyghent Pot and Gingling Hole. Is somebody trying to tell me something?!!!!
The only problem this year has been with Dalehead Pot.
Work has been progressing slowly to build some form of scaffolding protection around the entrance shaft but to date work has not been particularly successful due to the instability of the shaft and the inherent danger of collapse.
The next step is to remove the scaffolding (in process) and try to restabilize the top of the rubble shaft which is continually moving!!
The bottom of the shaft (entrance to crawl) is still blocked and will remain so until the above works have been effected.
This is a long term project which may take the rest of the year! If anyone else wants 'a go' please feel free!!
I am prepared to be Meets Secretary for the coming year unless anyone has a burning desire for the position!

Regards,

Stuart

Stuart Marshall.

THE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

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

Well here we are after the passing of yet another twelve months and I am able to repeat last years comment, that we have had another year free of major incident. I will start with access matters and will cover the area in some form of order, travelling more-or-less in a north-east to south-west direction.

The most northerly item is that of the gating of Knock Fell Caverns and as it is linked to conservation matters I will deal with it later, under that heading.

The situation on Casterton Fell shows no real change from last year although the Red Rose CPC does appear to be making gradual progress in discussions with their landlord, his legal actions apparently having come to naught. It has been suggested that he may attempt to link negotiations over the future of Bull Pot Farm to access to the caves situated under the Fell. If any such action were to be attempted I hope that the Council would resist it totally.

Leck Fell appears to have had no problems. However I believe that when the matter of Bull Pot Farm is resolved we may receive a combined approach, led by Lord Shuttleworth, seeking a revision to the access agreements for the Leck/Casterton area. Quite what form such a revision might take I do not know.

On Ingleborough, the matter of unauthorised digging was raised by the Ingleborough Management Committee. A site visit in company with members of the Management Committee showed that the problem was limited to one, albeit fairly large, open excavation. The matter of determining ownership of the apparently abandoned dig and it's in-filling has been sub-contracted to certain well-known members of the local caving community.

In Littondale, Boreham Cave continues to be the subject of closure by the tenant farmer - negotiations at this important diving site are being handled by a member of the C.D.G.

In Wharfedale, Dove Caves, two minor mine levels/caves located adjacent to Dow Cave, have come under threat of gating because of disturbance of the resident bat population. The situation is being monitored by the local bat group and we should be able to reach an agreement that will suit everyone involved, not least the bats who roost in the levels.

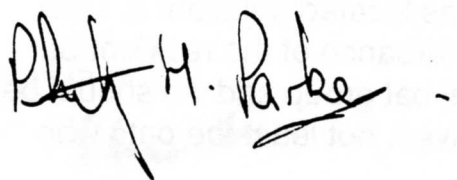
Moving onto conservation matters I will start with the N.C.A./English Nature Cave Conservation Policy document. There was some delay in the production of the draft that was being awaited at the time of last year's AGM, the document not arriving until October. However its publication engendered considerable additional comment resulting in the appearance of a further draft. Finally an all-day meeting of the NCA C & A committee, attended by Neil Glasser the English Nature officer responsible for caves, examined and modified the then current draft on a line by line basis. The resulting revised draft document is due to be issued shortly with an intent that the final production will be ready for a formal issue in the Autumn.

I must thank those few people who have bothered to give me views and comments about the various drafts of this document and thus have helped in it's development.

Progressing naturally I come to cave conservation plans. A trial plan is being produced in each caving region, in a joint exercise between the local council and English Nature, with the funding being provided by English Nature. In the north Knock Fell Caverns was a natural choice being not much visited and a matter of access concern because of the gating. The production of the plan has been led by Tim Elliott, a Gritstone Club member and one of the original explorers. I believe that the field work has been completed and that the draft report is currently on the word processor. If this plan proves to be successful I hope that it may act as a template for other important sites, always provided that cavers are prepared to become involved in the production and implementation of such plans.

Unfortunately cavers do not seem always to want to get down to the hard graft. As a result of requests at last years AGM and the subsequent committee meeting an initial conservation group meeting was held in December. It was well attended and produced some good, although probably predictable, ideas. However I have not been knocked over by the rush of people volunteering to become involved in the work required to put the ideas into practice. If cavers are not prepared to put their money (physical efforts) where their mouths are, then the whole initiative will be still-born.

Finally I am able to refer to one initiative that is proceeding - the possibility of producing access and conservation information for part or all of Ingleborough. This idea originated with the English Nature warden for the area and Geoff Barber of E N is producing a brief feasibility document to get the idea moving.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P H Parker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

P H Parker

Conservation and Access Officer

THE COUNCIL OF THE NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1993

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INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
BALANCE SHEET

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DYMOND, ASHWORTH & CO.

19, Ormerod Road
Burnley

Income & Expenditure Account
For the year ended 31st December, 1993

Income

Subscriptions / Grants
Interest Receivable

2659
126

2785

Expenditure

Subscriptions
Printing/Stationery
Officers Expenses
Audit
Repairs/Equipment
Room Hire

10
180
817
53
1328
12

2400

385

Surplus

Assets

Cash and Bank	4968	
Nat. & Prov. Building Society	-	
Britannia Building Society	<u>1640</u>	6608

Liabilities

Subscriptions Paid In Advance	500	
Creditor	<u>53</u>	(553)
		<u>£ 6055</u>

Accumulated Funds

Balance Brought Forward	5670	
Surplus	<u>385</u>	
		<u>£ 6055</u>

Prepared by:-

DYMOND, ASHWORTH & CO.

ACCOUNTANTS

19, ORMEROD ROAD,

BURNLEY, BB11 2RU

Dymond, Ashworth & Co.,

19 Ormerod Road,

Burnley.

Date: 9th February, 1994.

**C.N.C.C. AGM 12/03/94: Report of Rep on N.C.A. Training &
Executive Committees**

- 1) Please accept my apologies for absence - work prevents my attendance.
- 2) The Training Committee's work is summarised by the Training Co-ordinator's Report (attached). Points to emphasise are as follows.
- 3) Any club or organisation can apply for a training grant. Details of expenses and amount of support requested should be sent to the Training Co-ordinator, or contact Paul Ramsden. It works on a first come, first served basis.
- 4) The Leadership Schemes are designed to work on a self - financing basis.
- 5) An ongoing theme from the 1993 AGM is that **Conservation** should become part of the culture of British Caving - food for thought!
- 6) The next National Cavers' Fair is to take place on the 3rd - 5th June at the Dalesbridge Centre, Austwick. This has previously been well attended, involving active participation in training or a variety of excursions as well as a social event. Support is needed with ideas, organisation and attendance to make this at least as good as others elsewhere in the country.
- 7) The only item mentioned with respect to the N.C.A. Executive is insurance. (I am working so cannot attend the N.C.A. AGM on 19/03/94) For years the personal differences between the BCRA and N.C.A. Insurance Officers have prevented British Cavers and Caving getting the insurance cover it needs. (E.g. for the Bolts Scheme, Training, Events and Rescue abroad) I suggest this matter is raised at the N.C.A. AGM.
- 8) I am willing to continue to represent C.N.C.C. on the N.C.A. Training Committee. As for the Executive Committee, I have previously attended, but wonder if it would be more appropriate for one of the C.N.C.C. Officers to attend. This would ensure a better understanding of what N.C.A. is and does. Theoretically at least, N.C.A. is the sum of its constituent bodies rather than **"Them"** operating in isolation.

Paul Ramsden, Sun Lea, Joss Lane, Sedbergh, Cumbria, LA10 5AS
Tel 05396 - 20828