

# CNCC ANNUAL REPORT

# 1992



## COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

The CNCC A.G.M. will be held

on 14 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.
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 Troggs,Bradford pothole club,Burnley caving club,Dent house speleological soc,White rose pothole club,South Ribble caving club,Yorkshire Subterranean soc.

## COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Minutes of the AGM held on 14.03.92 at the Ingleton Community centre, Ingleton. Chaired by R. Myres.

Present: L. Sykes(LUG), R. Myres(CPC), D. Shepherd(EPC), R. Halliwell((CPC), P. Halliwell(CPC), I. Wood(ECG), G. Jones(WSG), P. Stacey(WSG), P. Morgan(EPC), B. Hunt(EPC), R. Holmes(DHSS), D. Shepley(DHSS), P. Allright(DHSS), B. Bond(BCC/CRD), J. Green(PP), G. Barber(EN), P. Muckalt(RRCPC), M. Whillock(YSS), T. Flanagan(UKLF), R. Rigy(LUG), S. Halliday(LUG), A. Sharrott(LUG), J. Sloane(LUG), P. Parker(WRPC), S. Marshall(BPC), D. Leonard(ANT), C. Danilewicz(NPC), P. Kneill(NPC).

Apologies: P. Ramsden.

Minutes of 1991 AGM: Previously circulated, Approved and signed.

Matters arising: None.

### Officers reports:

Chairman: R. Myres said that it had been a relatively quiet year, and that he was prepared to stand again if no one else was willing to be chairman.

Secretary: L. Sykes presented a written report. There was a debate about the new hangers, someone has placed poorly secured ones in Valley Entrance, (these have now been removed 140392).

Treasurer: D. Shepherd presented an account sheet for the period ending 31.12.91. The item indicated repairs, is for the rebuilding of Penyghent Pot entrance. D.S. commented in the changes regarding grants, i.e. grants will only be paid for access and training. D.S. said CNCC was set up as an access organisation therefore ALL expenditure should be covered as access, this point is to be raised at the NCA AGM. Subscriptions for 1993 are to remain at £10. There still seems to be confusion over subs and permits, it is quite clear, if your club wants to book a permit for 1993, then your club must have paid it's subs for 1993 before you apply for that permit.

Access and Conservation: P. Parker presented a written report. Sleets Gill ALL cavers are reminded to ask for permission at 'Mossdale' in Conistone. There was a discussion over the filling in of caves, it appears that if the cave has SSSI status then it cannot be filled in, but can be gated.

### MEETS SECRETARIES REPORTS

Leck Fell: No problems regarding access, but, ALL are reminded to send a S.A.E. when requesting permits. There is wall rebuilding, Lord Shuttleworth has entered into discussions with English Nature about Countryside Stewardship, with the emphasis on public (walkers) access sand footpaths, at present this does not include cavers, with a permissive path from Cowan bridge to Hellot scales barn and up the Gill.

Casterton Fell: Not much has changed from the last report, bookings are up. English Nature are aware of the footpath erosion and we should ALL make an effort to reduce this by walking up the beck bank to County and upstream pots. It may be necessary to initiate a 'cave management plan', to limit the underground damage in Lancaster/Ease Gill.

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

Penyghent/Fountains Fell: S. Marshall presented a written report.

Applications for membership: Pegasus Caving Club (DCA members)

Whitehough Outdoor Education centre, Proposed RRCP, seconded Dales CC.

East Essex Caving Team, (CSCC members).

Eccles Caving Group, Proposed LUG, Seconded Northumbrian SG.

Scarborough Caving Club Proposed for Full member club.

All applications were accepted.

Constitutional amendments: None proposed.

Election of officers and committee: The following persons and clubs were proposed and seconded and in the absence of any other nominations were duly elected.

Chairman, R. Myres, Secretary, L. Sykes, Treasurer, D. Shepherd, A&C officer, P. Parker.

Ordinary Committee: Association of Nidderdale Trogs, Bradford Pothole Club, Burnley Caving Club, Dent House Speleological Society, South Ribble Caving Club, Yorkshire Subterranean Society, Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club, Northern Pennine Club.

NCA reps report: P. Ramsden sent a written report.

A.D.B.: The proposals for the NCA AGM that the committee voted on to accept (regarding the restructuring of the NCA), at the last committee meeting had to be ratified at the AGM. The vote at the AGM was unanimous that the CNCC gives it's full backing to the proposals. The amount of litter in caves and at roadside changing areas was discussed at length, CNCC may purchase signs for the worst areas, as the National Parks policy is not to provide litter bins. The handbook was again raised, A. Hall will be contacted and a positive effort will be made to publish it this year.

Thefts, there is a significant increase in car breakins, and thefts of caving equipment in caves while the party is elsewhere, the police are warning ALL to hide everything that has to be left in cars, I believe that extra patrols are operating in certain areas. Groups of individuals are coming out for the day with the sole intention of stealing some ones equipment, spare clothing ect.

Next committee meeting: Will be held at the Golden Lion at Horton-in-Ribblesdale on 29 May 1991 at 20.00 (8 o'clock).

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

National Caving Association

**COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS**

Secretaries report to the 1992 AGM.

During 1991 the secretarial work load has increased, and with it the amount of replies required has increased.

The mailing list has reached <sup>148</sup>~~127~~ addresses.

I have managed to produce a regular newsletter for CNCC members, to try and keep everyone informed of any relevant caving information, and news from other areas, but, the club secretaries must pass on the info to their members.

This year has seen a change in the type of hanger that we will be using. I have spent a large portion of time attending the meetings and creating a bolt info sheet for both the CNCC and the NCA. New Goyden, Swinsto Hole and Alum Pot have all been rebolted with donations from the ACA. Unfortunately finance has been a problem. I have written to the Foundation for Sport and Art, and The Sports Council northern region, but, after the numerous letters, forms and phone calls I still think we will have to wait a while for the full money. One ray of sunshine is that the Sports Council have agreed to the funding (£1500) in principle. I just have to sort out the final details before we receive the money. A number of clubs have offered help, and some have offered help and finance.

Litter is once again starting to accumulate, both underground and at the road-side changing areas. The last week-end saw another bin bag full of rubbish picked up from along the road-side changing areas in Kingsdale, and, unfortunately the problem is increasing.

The old problem of pirating still dogs the caving scene, with the usual complaints from clubs that have bothered to abide by the correct procedure, and book a permit.

I am prepared to stand as secretary for 1992/3.

Les Sykes.

# Council of Northern Caving Clubs

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

### General

This is my third 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. The downturn in numbers which started in 1988 appears to be changing with 42 (33) bookings already made for 1992. However this increase is partially explained by an increase in multiple bookings by a small number of clubs.

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.	
Average number per year for the last 10 years - 43 (44)			

### Mongo Gill

No access problems to report. The number of midweek bookings has dropped from 65% in 1990 to 55%. However although the number of bookings is static the number of different organisations making the bookings is decreasing. Some 47% of the bookings are made by the UK Landforces School of Adventurous Training. For 1992 there are currently 20 (12) bookings with 8 (5) 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	
Average number per year for the last 10 years - 34 (33)			

### 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.

Ric Halliwell

File : CNCC92  
9 March 1992

Income and Expenditure Account  
for the year ended 31st December, 1991

Income

Subscriptions / Grants	1902
Building Society Interest	89
	<hr/>
	1991

Expenditure

Room Hire	4	
Insurance	-	
NCA Subscriptions	268	
Printing/Stationery	-	
Officers Expenses	397	
Audit	47	
Emergency Telephone	206	
Repairs	151	
Sundries	80	
	<hr/>	1153

Surplus		838
		<hr/>

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1991

Page 2

Assets

Cash and Bank	970	
Nat. & Prov. Building Society	-	
Britannia Building Society	3965	4935
		<hr/>

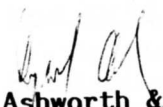
Liabilities

Subscriptions paid in advance	690	736
Creditor	46	
		<hr/>
		£ 4199
		<hr/>

Accumulated Funds

Balance Brought Forward	3361
Surplus	838
	<hr/>
	£ 4199
	<hr/>

Prepared by:

  
Dymond, Ashworth & Co.  
19 Ormerod Road  
Burnley.

Date: 9th March, 1992.



PENYGHENT AND FOUNTAINS FELL.

MEET SECRETARY'S REPORT,

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 14th MARCH 1992.

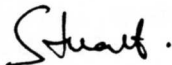
My meet reports for the committee meetings would appear to have covered most of the news and incidents for the past year, and nothing has changed since then.

I have had a request from Mr. Morphet regarding access to Alum Pot. He is asking if we can provide a litter bin so that he does not have to collect litter from the track. He felt the problem of litter stemmed from the number of outdoor pursuit centres that were using the pot, although I am of the opinion that all cavers are as responsible as each other.

The National Park policy is that waste paper bins should not be provided as this creates even more litter, a point I sympathise with. Also, there is the problem of maintenance - I don't mind emptying it when I'm passing but this is not the ideal situation. What happens if someone has an injury using the bin, for whatever reason!!!! I understand that the litter problem has been raised at other venues, so this is obviously a matter for discussion.

Anyhow, that's yer lot...I'm quite amiable to continue doing the 'job' for the coming year, if continued absence at committee meetings does not create too many problems!

Cheers,



Stuart Marshall.

## COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

### Conservation and Access Officer's report to the 1992 A.G.M.

The eight months since I found myself taking on the C. & A. role has been fairly quiet. There have been several matters that have required action of one sort or another, but nothing that has reached desperation stakes.

Taking things in no particular order I'll start with Strans Ghyll where there was a report of a threat to fill in the entrance. The likelihood of this happening is somewhat unlikely, in view of the status of the cave and the fact that the entrance is on National Trust land. However, there may be a general problem in the locality, due to organised outdoor parties using the dry bed of the stream for scrambling and the like. I am keeping in touch with Rae Lonsdale of the National Park, and awaiting any developments that may arise.

The matter of Gregory Scar Cave and the damage caused within the surrounding location of the Grass Wood Nature Reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, has been publicised. A note of thanks has been received from the Management Committee of the reserve, for this action.

The situation on Casterton Fell may be best described as fluid, although I am of the opinion that there is no threat to caving on the Fell, provided a little sense is shown by visitors. A considerable amount of damage to the land has been caused by caver access to the popular Ease Gill system entrances, but reasonable alternative access routes are available, and their development and use would make for better relationships with the landowner and farmers. The situation is not being helped by the increasing number of walkers who are using the area, or by the uncertainty over the future of Bull Pot Farm. Discussions between the estate and C.N.C.C. are continuing.

Leck Fell appears to be very quiet, and nothing has been heard from the estate, regarding the revised access agreement that was first mooted some three and a half years ago (?).

I have attended one of the two N.C.A. C. & A. committee meetings that have occurred in the last eight months, and found it quite interesting.

**REPORT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE N.C.A. TRAINING AND EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEES TO THE C.N.C.C. A.G.M. ON 14TH MARCH, 1992**

Please accept my apologies for absence - work calls.

*Paul Ramsden*

**TRAINING / EQUIPMENT**

A seminar at Ingleton finally persuaded people that DMM resin anchors were the best solution for long term artificial anchors. Recently these have been placed in a number of caves and only time will tell if there are any problems. For people or clubs wishing to help with placing these anchors, please check with Les Sykes, who is coordinating matters. Funding for the large numbers needed has not been provided through N.C.A. yet.

A seminar on Local Cave Leader Assessments in November provided useful material for a future national scheme which will include Mine Leadership as an option.

As mentioned at the January meeting, D.C.A. had a well attended training week-end in October. I can organise a training event in C.N.C.C.'s name, but as a professional caver, feel that some initiative should come from member clubs as to what format it might take. If clubs want to organise a training event of their own, they can liase with me or the N.C.A. Training Coordinator. Funding is possible, probably on a First come basis. The next meeting will probably have to approve which events get support.

**EXECUTIVE**

The N.C.A. A.G.M. date was wrongly reported in the January minutes - it is on the 21st March, 1992.

The February meeting of N.C.A. was cancelled because of bad weather so various proposals did not get an airing. There are many proposals to change the constitution; some based on the British Caving Census of Oct 1991 suggest a totally new one, as mentioned in the C.N.C.C. January minutes. Unfortunately C.S.C.C. have made proposals suggesting their March 1992 meeting mandates their delegates to withdraw from the N.C.A. A.G.M. if the working party is resurrected. This would make the meeting inquorate. It is this veto which has been a major problem in constitutional change for some time. C.S.C.C. is pressing for a club based N.C.A. membership - some clubs deliberately destroyed previous N.C.A. questionnaires rather than allow their members to vote individually!

I am sure lots of cavers are fed up with this ongoing wrangle - but it is worth ensuring it has a sensible conclusion to suit the wishes of the majority. It is important that C.N.C.C. has 4 delegates plus a reserve if necessary for the N.C.A. A.G.M. and observers are welcome.

I am willing to continue to represent C.N.C.C. on future N.C.A. Training Committees.

Paul Ramsden - 3rd March, 1992.

secretarial expenses from 17.01.92 to 14.03.92

ITEM	COST
130 second class stamps @ 18p (note 1)	£ 23.40
150 second class stamps @ 18p (note 2)	£ 27.50
500 envelopes	£ 7.05
5 pack A4 paper 2500 sheets	£ 9.98
Expenses for attending ILAM meeting at Becket park Leeds on 19.02.92 137 miles @ 8p per mile.	£ 10.96
Telephone Calls	
25/11/91 0850 709516	£ .46
16/11/91 0850 709516	£1.79
30/11/91 05242 41210	£ .79
30/11/91 0742 756756	£ .90
07/12/91 05242 41210	£1.17
16/12/91 05242 41210	£ .71
08/01/92 0532 406060	£ .50
15/01/92 05242 515888	£ .71
22/01/91 0850 709516	£1.60
25/01/92 0539 620828	£ .63
04/02/92 091 384 959	£1.21

TOTAL £89.54

Note 2

General correspondence, minutes from the last meeting, news letter.

Note 1

N.C.A. AGM notification, with supporting notes and agenda.

Les Sykes  
49 Manfield  
Ashurst  
Skelmersdale  
Lancs  
WN8 6SU

Tel: 0695 28673