

THE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

The Annual General Meeting of the Council was held at the Marton Arms, Ingleton, on Saturday the 16th May, 1970.

1. Minutes of the 1969 A.G.M. were read and accepted as a correct record.
2. Chairman's Report The Chairman, Roger Sutcliffe pointed out the importance of maintaining good relationships with farmers and landowners, particularly where digging operations are concerned. Clubs were reminded to always seek permission to dig; to make sure the dig is safe during work and to tidy up after the dig is finished, whether successful or not. He also reminded clubs of the work of Council members and suggested that some new people ought to be doing some of the work.
3. Secretary's Report (attached) The Secretary also indicated that he intends to make this his last year of office.
4. Treasurers Report (attached) The Treasurer explained that a cheque for £12 was in the post from Education Productions Ltd. and a further £15 for selling access booklets had not been included in the accounts. The Balance sheet was produced too late to be audited but it is intended to do this before the Treasurer hands over the accounts. The largest single item for the weather forecasting service was discussed as a separate item.
5. Weather forecasting Reported that attempts to obtain grant aid towards cost of weather forecasting service had been unsuccessful. It is still hoped to get some help towards this cost and the service was reported to be well used and reliable. After discussion it was agreed to continue to use the service at the increased cost of 7/- per forecast. The Committee were instructed to inquire into the question of obtaining a grant for this purpose.
6. Appointment of Officers
 - a) Treasurer J.M. Clarke (B.P.C.) was appointed Treasurer.
(List of officers addresses attached)
 - b) Meets Secretary (Leck Casterton)
Two proposals J. Cousens W.R.P.C.
J. Rasdell Rolls Royce P.C.
J. Rasdell was appointed.
7. Tree Planting in Langstrothdale Reported that tree planting had taken place in Langstrothdale in spite of opposition from the Yorkshire Dales Planning Committee. The Councils Committee had hoped that by supporting the Y.D.P.C. in this matter they may support us more readily on access problems. Steve Warren pointed out that it seemed unlikely that more extensive tree planting would follow. R. Coe pointed out that local farmers and residents favoured tree planting and active opposition of the Council could lead to bad relationships with them. The Chairman in closing the discussion said that the Councils Committee would watch developments closely.

8. Difficulties caused by clubs visiting areas without permission

The Secretary again stressed that one major incident could spoil the good relationship built up over the years by the Council and its representatives. Several incidents during the year could well have had disastrous results if the landowners had not accepted explanations and apologies of council officials. Several others had not come to the notice of the landowners but had spoiled meets booked by clubs only to find other clubs down the pot without permission. In the following discussion it was suggested that offenders should be named in the minutes so that the responsible clubs would be deterred from offending. In worse cases it was pointed out that the Constitution did give the Council powers to suspend clubs after hearing explanations.

9. Area Reports

Leck Negotiations proceeding with landowner for extra access.

Casterton The landowner has agreed that the fell can now be open all the year round.

Fountains Fell Meets list for 1970-71 agreed with the exception of Hammer & Coronation Pots. Clubs are being informed of agreed dates.

Dale Barn Yorkshire & Humberside Sports Federation actively pursuing access to Dale Barn. Dr. Raistrick (Yorkshire Dales Planning Committee) is sympathetic to our cause and suggested contacting Flight Commander Fitton (Chairman of the Planning Committee) This is being done.

Birks Fell Council representatives are to meet the owner and his agent to tie up final details of access during the next few weeks.

White Scar Cave No real progress to report.

10. The National Caving Association

a) Grants N.C.A. Secretary is collecting information on Regional expenditure this year with a view to applying for a grant.

b) Proposals by the William Pengelly Cave Studies Trust to discuss the possibility of a survey of caves, access difficulties, conservation and having done a survey, discuss means of improving the situation. The Committee representative M. Acland reported that the first meeting had been postponed.

11. Any other business There was no other business and the meeting was closed.

The Committee met briefly to consider two applications for membership.

Hull University Speleological Society
Caper Montis Mountaineering Club

were accepted as associate members.

The 1970 B.S.A. Conference will be held at the University of Nottingham 11th - 13th September 1970. Further information from Dr. G. Stevens, 4, Kingston Avenue, Acklam, Middlesbrough, Teeside TS5 7RS

Dr. Farrer has asked me to pass on to clubs a report from the Chelsea Speleological Society, that the Coulter Slope immediately following the first pitch in Juniper Gulf is unstable.

Council Officers are as follows:

Chairman: J.R. Sutcliffe,
16, Ryelands Grove,
Heaton,
Bradford 9.

Secretary: T. Sykes,
15, Higher Calderbrook,
Littleborough,
Lancs.

Treasurer: J.M. Clarke,
80, Langbar Grange,
Leeds 14.

Meets Secretary: Penyghent, Fountains, Mongo Gill
E.A. Shaw,
Sough Lane Farm,
Nr. Guide,
Blackburn.

Casterton Leck
J. Rasdell,
6, Monkroyd Avenue,
Barnoldswick.

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Hon. Secretary's Report 1976

The Council's Committee has been active this year in negotiation for access to Dale Barn Cave, production of the Access Booklet, negotiations for access to Birks Fell Cave, and increased access on Leck and Casterton Fells. I hope by the A.G.M. to have good news for you about the last three. Dale Barn Cave still eludes us, but the Yorkshire and Humberside Sports Federation is doing what it can on our behalf. The assistance of Dr. Raistrick, of the Yorkshire Dales Planning Committee, is also being sought.

Your Secretary and Committee members have been continually disillusioned by the lack of cooperation of member clubs during the course of this year. More time has been spent pacifying landowners this year than ever before. If this attitude continues it is only a question of time before more doors are closed to us and years spent creating good relationships are lost overnight by a few selfish cavers who won't abide by rules negotiated between us and the landowners.

Membership continues to grow (now 84 clubs) as does the work of the Council's Officers, particularly the Meets Secretaries, Chairman, Treasurer and other Committee Members who deal with particular aspects of the Council's work. My thanks to them, and to the C.C.P.R. staff for typing and distributing our Minutes.

T. Sykes
Hon. Secretary

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Receipts and Payments Account for Year ending 16th May, 1970

Receipts

	£	s	d
Subscriptions and Entry Fees	47	0	0
Sale of Access Booklet	28	4	9
Balance in hand at Bank on 25th April, 1969	52	19	8

Payments

	£	s	d
Secretary's Expenses	5	13	0
Meet Secretary's Expenses	4	10	0
Treasurer's Expenses		16	0
Payment for clerical work to C.C.P.R.	26	15	2
Hire of rooms	1	14	0
Lancs. Sports Federation subs.	1	0	0
Yorkshire & Humberside Sports Council subs.	1	0	0
Leck Fell Agreement		5	0
Insurance premium for public liability	7	10	0
U.L.S.A. paper for Access Book	11	7	0
Printing etc.	3	18	8
Weather forecasts	28	5	6
Notice Boards	10	0	0
Balance in hand at Bank on 15.5.70	25	9	3
	£128	4	5