

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Final Approved Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 7th March 2020, Hellifield Village Institute

Attendees in order of signature on attendance sheets:

Name	Abbrev.	Affiliation	CNCC officer/ co-opted role?	Voting?
Josh Young	JY	York University Cave and Pothole Club	Assistant Secretary, taking minutes.	No
Chris Camm	CC	White Rose Pothole Club		Yes
Stuart Whitmey	SW	Earby Pothole Club		Yes
Bernard Bond	BB	Burnley Caving Club		Yes
Alan Jeffreys	AJ	Grampian Speleological Group		Yes
Pete Bann	PB	Northern Boggarts	Treasurer	No
Ric Halliwell	RH	Craven Pothole Club	Acting Chairperson	No
Fiona Hartley	FH	Northern Pennine Club		Yes
John Holloway	JH	University of Leeds Speleological Association		Yes
Tim Allen	TA	N/A	Access Officer	No
Ben Wright	BW	Bradford Pothole Club		No
Ray Duffy	RD	Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club		No
Gary Douthwaite	GD	York Caving Club	Webmaster	No
Ian Cross	IC	Bradford Pothole Club		Yes
Jean-Luc Heath	JH	York University Cave and Pothole Club		Yes
Stuart Clarkson	SC	Morley Pothole Club		Yes
A Fuller- Shapcott	AF	Elysium Underground Group		Yes
Robin Keith	RK	Elysium Underground Group		No
Matt Ewles	ME	York Caving Club	Secretary	Yes
Lawrence Jordan	LJ	Lancashire Climbing and Caving Club		Yes**
Bernie Jordan	BJ	Lancashire Climbing and Caving Club		No

Fiona Durham	FD	Yorkshire Subterranean Society		Yes
Pete Monk	PM	Northern Boggarts		Yes
Sam Lieberman	SL	Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club		Yes
Pat Halliwell	PH	Craven Pothole Club		Yes
Jon Beavan	JB	N/A		No
Robert Scott	RS	Craven Pothole Club		No
Ian Patrick	IP	^^		No

^^ Did not sign attendance register, added from memory.

** LCCC were not able to vote until after they were accepted as a full member club in section 2.

Total number of full member clubs present and voting: 15 (Quorum = 10)

Full member clubs not present (16 in total):

Airedale Caving Club
Bolton Speleo Club
Cave Diving Group (Northern Section)
CNCC Technical Group
Dent House Speleological Society
Durham Cave and Mine Club
Gay Outdoor Club
Gritstone Club
Kendal Caving Club
Lancashire Underground Group
Over and Under Caving Club
Pegasus Mountaineering and Caving Club
Rubber Duck Caving Club
Sheffield University Speleological Society
Th'Owd Skool Caving Club
Yorkshire Ramblers Club

Numbering of sections in these minutes relates to agenda item numbering.

The meeting opened at 10:03am with a welcome from the chair.

1) Apologies for absence

Phil Judson (GOC)
Andy Gordon (KCC)
Harvey Lomas (YRC)
Kay Easton (Conservation Officer)
Andrew Hinde (Chair)

2) Applications for Full Membership

Acceptance of Lancashire Climbing and Caving Club as full members:

Votes: 15 votes for (unanimous)

There are now 16 voting members present.

3) Acceptance of minutes from the 2019 AGM

No issues raised.

Proposal to accept minutes of the 2019 AGM.

Votes: 15 votes for, 1 abstention

Secretary's note: Several of the "housekeeping" votes (accepting minutes and reports) during this meeting were conducted without anyone proposing or seconding them. As all of these votes passed with a high majority, this is considered to be inconsequential.

Action: Josh Young to issue final minutes.

4) Matters arising from the 2019 AGM

Nothing raised.

5) Reports

Chairman's report:

- Replying to RH, CC said that WRPC are still planning to perform work on the entrance to Providence Pot, which was arranged following a landslide there last year.

Proposal to accept Chairman's report.

Votes: 16 votes for (unanimous)

Secretary's report:

- ME confirmed that he wouldn't be vanishing completely after stepping down as Secretary. He will still be attending meetings as a representative for YCC and as meets secretary for Excalibur.

Proposal to accept Secretary's report.

Votes: 15 votes for, 1 absention

- RH gave thanks from the chair, for ME's years of work as the CNCC secretary.

Treasurer's report:

Proposal to accept Treasurer's report.

Votes: 16 votes for (unanimous)

- ME pointed out that now, with recent BCA changes (in part thanks to TA), CNCC can be reimbursed for almost all expenses. Due to this strong financial position, ME urges people to come forward with ideas for ways to spend CNCC money.

Conservation Officer's report:

Proposal to accept Conservation Officer's report.

Votes: 16 votes for (unanimous)

Access Officer's report:

- TA expressed his opinion that now the CNCC has much less to do with respect to negotiating and maintaining access agreements, there should be a re-focus on what else we can do and that continuing to improve relations with landowners would be beneficial. He suggested spending money on PR projects, such as working with the National Park on more information boards such as those at Bull Pot Farm, or on promoting caving more at visitor centres.
- As part of his plans for the coming year, TA plans to discuss the Birks Fell access agreement with the National Trust. While the entrance is on private NT land, most of the walk to the cave is public right of way, and TA believes there is no reason for them to restrict access.
- JB commended TA and CNCC on their work so far with promoting caving, and that this should continue as caves are a unique aspect of the Yorkshire Dales.
- AS asked whether there are still plans for a caving exhibition at Skipton Museum, which would be excellent PR. CC offered make enquiries about this. RH said that as there are several CPC members involved, he will ask around and report back to the next meeting.

Action: RH to make enquiries regarding the caving exhibition at Skipton Museum, and report back to next meeting.

Proposal to accept Access Officer's report.

Votes: 16 votes for (unanimous)

Anchor Coordinator's report:

- ME commended Alan on his work as Anchor Coordinator. He has successfully tracked down missing anchors, updated all records and as he now has a stockpile of resin and 2 anchor pullers, he is now a 1-stop-shop for anyone wishing to embark upon a new anchoring project.
- There is now a list of approved projects, and there are plans to run an anchor installation training course, which means it is now easier than ever to get involved in anchors.

Webmaster's report:

- Nothing raised.

Youth and Development Officer's report:

- Nothing raised.

Meets Secretaries' reports:

- Nothing raised.

Proposal to accept all other reports.

Votes: 16 votes for (unanimous)

6 & 7) Election of CNCC Committee/Officers for the year 2020-2021

All voting representatives had been issued voting forms with their voting cards at the start of the meeting. JY announced that the re-election statement from BPC had been mistakenly omitted from the agenda, and handed round several copies of it (this was appended to the original agenda a few days before the meeting).

A break was taken while voting representatives completed and returned their voting forms. Committee and Officer elections were conducted simultaneously. Votes were counted by JY, and independently verified by ME.

Outcome:

All standing Officers and Committee received a minimum of 3 votes and were thus elected.

Officers and Committee for 2020-21 are:

Officers

Chair: Andrew Hinde

Secretary: Josh Young

Treasurer: Ben Wright

Conservation: Kay Easton

Access: Tim Allen

Training: Ian Patrick

Committee

Bradford Pothole Club

Craven Pothole Club

Earby Pothole Club

Grampian Speleological Group

Kendal Caving Club

Northern Boggarts

Northern Pennine Club

Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club

University of Leeds Speleological Association

White Rose Pothole Club

York Caving Club

York University Cave and Pothole Club

Yorkshire Subterranean Society

The actual number of votes for each are not reported. All met eligibility acceptance (min. 3 votes). The number of voting forms returned was confirmed to tally with the number of voting representatives at the meeting (16).

- RH reopened the meeting after the break and confirmed the results. He offered the new officers a chance to introduce themselves.
- BW briefly introduced himself and his caving background.
- IP talked of his vision of having an online list of courses people can sign up to, making it as clear and easy as possible to book and pay. He believes the CNCC will pay a fixed fee to trainers, and that although there will be subsidies for certain courses (e.g. Try Caving, SRT Rescue), the pricing of courses will generally aim to cover its running costs. He also suggested requiring a deposit to secure numbers.
- TA suggested putting on free caving days for landowners. IP thought this was a great idea, but that due to the cost issue it may be necessary to have a “reservoir” of funds available for

running courses. Additionally, there will be a need for high quality clean gear to lend these landowners. RH pointed out that Andrew Hinde took the landowner down Fairy Holes. This worked really well, giving said landowner a much greater appreciation for caves.

- TA re-assured IP that the new BCA treasurer is much more on board with spending money and more willing to cover any deficit in the budgets of regional councils. ME confirmed this, saying that with the new funding rules all reasonable costs will be refunded, eliminating the previous cap of £25 per person per course.
- RH recommended a policy of making courses as cheap as possible for participants. IP suggested that around £20 would be a reasonable price to charge for a full-day course.

8) Proposal for Constitutional Amendment

- ME withdrew this proposal, as it is no longer relevant now that IP had become Training Officer.

9) Dates for the coming year

- No issues were raised with the suggested dates.
- JY confirmed that, as Hellifield Village Hall has new officers running things, he believes there is no longer a need to move to a different venue. This can be reviewed at a later date.

10) Any Other Business

- TA brought up that in their latest manifesto the Conservative Party pledged to make trespass a criminal offence, which would have a significant impact on cavers. He reported that in addition to responding to the consultation on behalf of the CNCC, he had persuaded the BCA to respond too, to make sure this doesn't impact recreational access. He expects this will likely be the case, as there would be too much opposition from other outdoor groups.
- JB suggested CNCC could promote caving photographs beyond cavers, such as getting them put up in local village halls, GP surgeries etc. He suggested discussing this with the "Welcome to Yorkshire" organisation, and that YDNP would happily use the images if CNCC provided them. He recommended building a catalog of royalty free photos to use and share.
- RH said that the NP might advertise these photos on their social media. TA pointed out that they have already added caving spreads to their publications and website. RH also suggested sending photos to the Craven Herald.
- FD said that there are several popular facebook pages which promote images of outdoor activities and/or the natural environment, and suggested sending them some cave photos to use.
- PH said that CPC have supplied photos to the Crown Inn before, and TA said how he'd successfully asked Mark Burkey to gift some of his photos to the Marton Arms. AJ said it would be better to have photos of people doing things, rather than just nice photos of formations.
- IP asked whether CNCC should be mentioned on the frames, but TA said this might not be a good idea. ME suggested that if anything should be promoted, it should be newtocaving.com.
- ME said that framed photos could be used to give away to landowners, as with the Caves and Karst books. TA offered to get quotes for the framed photos.

Action: TA to find out the expected cost of framed cave photos, and report back to next Committee meeting.

Meeting closed at 10:55am

Summary of specific action items:

Individual(s)	Action item
Josh Y	Finalise 2019 AGM minutes
Ric H	Make enquiries regarding the Skipton museum exhibit & report back to June meeting.
Tim A	Get some framed caving photos costed up, & report back to June meeting.