

THE COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Ingleborough Hotel, Ingleton on Saturday, 25th May, 1968.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Alan Shaw (N.P.C.).
Representatives from 18 member clubs attended.
2. The minutes of the 1967 Annual General Meeting were accepted.
3. The Chairman, Roger Sutcliffe stressed the problems connected with large numbers of young people being introduced to caving:-
 - (a) are clubs doing enough for them?
 - (b) is the standard of leadership among Educational Groups high enough?

The authorities are turning to us for guidance and we require a National policy so that the right answer can be given.

4. Secretary's Report - attached*
5. Treasurer's Report - attached*
There was some discussion on the difference between the number of member clubs and the amount of money received in subscriptions. It was agreed that the Treasurer should report to the Committee any clubs whose subscriptions have not been paid for over 12 months. The Committee will then decide whether any special circumstances will allow the club to continue in membership. The Treasurer agreed to send out reminders to those clubs in arrears.

6. Appointment of Officers. - all officers stand for second year.

Chairman - J. R. Sutcliffe

Hon. Treasurer - H. Long

Hon. Secretary - T. Sykes

Meets Secretary - Penyghent, Fountains Fell
and Mongo Gill. E. A. Shaw

Meets Secretary - Leck Casterton to be appointed
by Committee.

7. Area Reports

- (a) Leck Casterton. Chairman and Secretary met Lord Shuttleworth and Colonel Bowring on the morning of the meeting. No problems except litter on Leck Fell Lane. Clubs are asked to remove any litter on each visit in order to maintain good relations with the gamekeeper. Clubs should be constantly aware of the litter problem both above and below ground.
- (b) Fountains Fell. Reported that the landowner, Mr. Coates had been upset by finding a large broken stalactite on the fell. (Harry Long has since visited Mr. Coates and straightened matters up). Meets will be allocated and clubs who requested dates will be notified soon. Mr. Coates would not agree to re-opening Hammer Pot this year. But for the dispute it is likely that all our requests would have been granted this year.
- (c) Alum Pot. The Quarter Sessions have ruled that the Alum Pot Footpath be deleted from the Definitive Map. There is apparently no appeal against this decision. It seems that in order to get access to Alum Pot and Long Churn cave we must comply with Mrs. Wilcock's 6d charge.

(d) Bar Pot. Questions are being asked in Settle Rural District Council about pollution to the Clapham Water Supply. Roger Sutcliffe has corresponded with Dr. Farrer about this and the matter was referred to the Committee. This is another case where litter is causing concern, though we will contest any suggestion that pollution is caused by litter in the cave.

(e) Kingsdale Master Cave. The meeting was assured that there is no danger of the entrance being closed.

(f) Birks Fell Cave. Access can be gained by application to Mr. Horner, Redmire, Buckden, Skipton.

(g) Sunset Hole. The landowner is now A. Greenbank, High Gearstones but calling at Southerscales be all that is required.

8. Proposed moves towards a National Caving Association.

A proposal to change the C.N.C.C. name to 'Northern Caving Council' was lost.

The following resolution was agreed after discussion:-

"The Council of Northern Caving Clubs considers that a National Caving Association is desirable. As a first step towards this they wish to extend their Committee representation to include the Cave Rescue Organisation and the Cave Research Group in order to make an all embracing Northern Council whilst still maintaining member Clubs individuality. Great caution should be taken to ensure that clubs maintain the initiative throughout".

The next step will be taken at the Annual Meeting of the Regional Councils which is to be held at Matlock on the 9th November, 1968, to coincide with the C.R.G. Meeting.

Four representatives were appointed to attend this meeting:-

J. R. Sutcliffe
T. Sykes
R. Plant
S. Warren.

9 & 10. Library and Preservation are being dealt with by the Committee.

11. After discussion it was agreed to send two representatives to serve actively on the management Committee of the new Outdoor Pursuits Centre at Whernside Manor, Dentedale, to be opened by the Scouts Association. Peter Oldfield representing the Scouts Association explained the aims of the Centre.

The Warden is to be Malcolm 'Ben' Lyon who was previously at the Woodlands Outdoor Pursuits Centre. The Council's representatives will be:-

N. Platt (C.P.C.)
J.K. Windle (Rolls Royce P.C.)

12. Sports Councils

T. Sykes and J. M. Clarke reported that the Sports Council had issued their Preliminary Reports and Surveys of Existing Facilities for Sport and Recreation - these have not as yet included Caving.

13. Requested and agreed that a copy of the Constitution should be sent to all member Clubs. *

At a short Committee Meeting held after the Annual General Meeting one application for membership from the Yorkshire Subterranean Society was deferred because no seconder was available.

Frank Croll of 6, Byrom Avenue, Bolton-le-Sands, Nr. Carnforth was appointed meets Secretary for Leck/Casterton. All applications for meets from 1st July, 1968 should be addressed to Frank.

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

Slow progress has been made towards re-opening Dale Barn Cave, the payments at Alum Pot or the possibility of general access to White Scar Cave. However, the years credits include the strengthening of Landowner/potholer relationships by our action during the foot and mouth epidemic; access to the caves on Borrins Moor and the erection of a stile on the route to Ireby Fell Cavern.

The question of a National Caving Association has been very much alive this year and our Annual General Meeting will be discussing ways of achieving this without interfering with the individuality of the clubs.

This year the "Know the Game" booklet on Caving and Potholing was published after it had been vetted and approved by Committee Members. The general opinion was that this was a worth while publication aimed at the novice at a reasonable price. Long negotiations finally culminated in an agreement with the publishers which will result in a small income for the Council from the sales of the booklet.

There have been three Committee meetings during the year and Committee Members have also attended meetings of the Sports Councils and the Regional Councils of Caving Clubs meeting.

Membership continues to grow and we now have 68 member clubs.

Once again I must thank Meets Secretaries, Alan Shaw and Jeff Morgan, for their work over the year and the Office Secretary of the C.C.P.R. for producing the minutes from my hurried manuscript.

T. SYKES,

Hon. Secretary.

May, 1968.