



# British Caving Association

Minutes of the National Council Meeting  
11 June 2005  
Alvechurch Church Hall, Alvechurch

## **Present –**

Mick Day (MD) BCA Chairman  
Paula Grgich-Warke (PGW) BCA Secretary  
David Judson (DJ) BCA Legal & Insurance Officer, BCRA Representative  
Sue Mabbett (SM)  
Jenny Potts (JP) DCA Representative to BCA  
Steve Holding (SH) NAMHO Representative to BCA  
David Cooke (DC) BCA National Cave Registry Coordinator, CSCC Rep to BCA

**Apologies –** Jonathan Roberts, Elsie Little, Idris Williams, Les Williams, Bob Mehew, Nick Williams, Owen Clarke, Chris Broome, Patrick Hall, Emma Porter

1. Chairman Welcome – 10:46 am
2. Apologies for Absence – See above
3. Applications for Club Membership – This was deferred until treasurers report – to be discussed with club constitutions
4. Minutes of National Council Meeting 12/5 – JP Recommended an annual report. A motion was made to accept the minutes as noted by the chair.

**Proposed: DC**

**Second: JP**

**Agreed: Unanimously**

5. There were no matters arising from the National Council Meeting

## **Officers Reports**

### **6. Chairman**

- 1) Letter regarding validation of BCA as Governing body for Caving  
UK Sport has not reached an agreement on non-Olympic related organizations.  
There is a need to find other bodies that can assist us with continued support and funding.
- 2) Working at height – The matter has not yet been settled with respect to SRT. Concerns remain that it is not up to politicians to grant exception, but civil servants. It is now recommend that we contact MPs who are working on the legislation to directly plead our case. DJ noted website 'theyworkforus.com' which has a list of MPs.
- 3) Liquor Licensing issues – It is unclear as to whether or not we need licensing for group activities. Hidden Earth is required to have a licence for next year. This matter needs to be addressed further
- 4) CRB/Child protection - Currently there is a fee of £7.50 for CRB checks – we don't know who the requirements would apply to, and at the moment we aren't sure what advice to give.  
JP suggested that this info was passed on to regional insurance advisers so this recommendation can be forwarded to the appropriate people. MD will forward via email to insurance officers. DJ will provide paragraph to this effect for the next newsletter. CRB is trying to reduce the number of registered bodies. The BMC will hold a seminar on the role of outdoor instructors.

### **7. Secretary**

- 1) Previous secretary had many club constitutions passed on by Jenny. These need to be retrieved and properly filed. Each constitution needs to be validated so club membership in BCA can be confirmed. However, some clubs are not aware that they are required to submit this constitution to us.
- 2) A system to confirm receipt of constitutions with applications and fees is required. PGW will discuss this with membership secretary.



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## 8. Treasurer

- 1) JR remains in hospital. He will shortly resume working on our financial plan. NCA accounts still need to be disposed of properly. A motion was made to allow an executive funding transfer from NCA to BCA accounts, whilst maintaining the NCA account temporarily.

**Motion: MD    Second: JP    Agreed: Unanimously**

- 2) DJ pointed out that a loan of £20k hasn't been returned to BCRA and requested that BM arrange the transfer ASAP.
- 3) An audit is required for 2005 – this matter was deferred as an auditor can be appointed at the October meeting.
- 4) The BCA Treasurer should indicate what format Regional Council accounts should be presented in, and ensure that all Regional Council financial statements are audited and available for inspection by all BCA Members before any funding is agreed.

## 9. Conservation Officer – DJ reporting for EL

- 2) There was a one day symposium by the National Trust on 29 May regarding Access to Caves & Mines on National Trust Property. This is detailed in an email from Elsie.
- 3) National Mines organisation - DJ has offered to assist formalising their organisation on behalf of BCA and will provide information on this later.
- 4) Conservation Codes – Elsie is looking for a copy of the publication "Protect Our Caves" which requires updating. EL is requesting a set of all conservation-related publications to make sure that any updates are in line with the existing publications. The conservation group will over the next year do their best to rewrite the codes which will need to be approved by every regional council.

## 10. Training Officer

We are awaiting a decision from the Sports Council on funding before pursuing Administrative support.

## 11. Equipment Officer – no report –

JP requested training for installing 'P' hangers. There is limited funding for training.

## 12. Editor – MD on behalf of Jim Cochran. There is no news yet about our next publication.

## 13. Publications & Information Officer – DJ for LW. New BCA handbook has been posted.

Training is not mentioned in the handbook. This needs to be addressed in future issues. JP has 100 extra copies of Newsletter #3 which will be distributed to members who renewed after the publication date.

## 14. Legal & Insurance Officer – NW by email. A motion was made to approve the appointment of Vicky temporarily to assist with Lynne's workload, and compensate her at the same wage.

**Motion: JP    Second: DJ    Agreed: Unanimously**

Regarding membership issues, a concern was raised that many members have not received DIM cards, and as such cannot obtain access to certain caves. We will be revising our method of membership card distribution for next year. DC raised concerns that Regional Council memberships have fallen. More information from the Membership Secretary was requested. This request will be passed on to Lynne Bailey for her action.

## 15. Insurance Manager – A delay has been noted in receiving the insurance cards

## 16. Convenor, Radon Working Party – No report



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17. **National Cave Registry Co-Coordinator** – DC is meeting with regional coordinators and setting up a registry based on the Mendip design. We need to address how this information is to be published and would like to begin an open discussion on these issues.
18. **Webmaster** – No report was received
19. **International Representative** – No report was received however an upcoming expedition to Greece was listed in Descent Magazine.

## Other Business

- A. Emma Porter sent note to MD that members of her club wanted to attend outdoor show at NEC 17-19 March 2006. BCA will consider this for future support but commercial interest and sponsorship is required for this to be feasible.
- B. Next Meeting – Alvechurch hall not available on 15<sup>th</sup> therefore another venue will be required to keep the date the same. DJ will look into hiring the Village Hall in Alvechurch or other such facilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 14:10

**Recorder: Paula Grgich-Warke**