

**SMOKING
In Caving Club Premises**

A plethora of legislation has recently been enacted (1) that either has, or will shortly, come into force (2) across Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England.

Certain detailed aspects of this legislation are not entirely clear, and will only become clearer as the legislation beds down and cases are resolved in the courts. In the areas both of property definition and its usage from time to time there are some grey areas! However, the general ethos and objectives of all of this legislation is to make it quite clear that in enclosed spaces (buildings, tents, etc) where the general public have legitimate access (3), or where people are expected to carry out work (other than exclusively on their own and in their own premises) smoking is no longer acceptable in law. It also becomes an offence not to have on display clear notices, indicating to all who enter such premises that smoking is prohibited by law.

In my view, there is absolutely no doubt that the intention of the Governments and their legislators is to make it an offence for smokers to be able to inflict their smoke upon others in all such places where they otherwise have a natural right to go or be, or where they have to be in connection with "work". I do therefore suggest to all those who own, or have any part in the running of a club hut, cottage, tackle store, or whatever that they seek to comply with this legislation as quickly as they are able. This does not just mean passing a resolution

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at the next committee meeting, but also making sure that signage is in place in the premises (see the 'Signs Regulations' box on page 2).

The 'grey areas' are to do with how you regard the property (hostel or self-catering accommodation), who uses it and for what (work?). I suggest that most people would think of 'self-catering accomodation' as places

that are used by private family units, or groups of close-friends for holidays in the sun/the snow or the countryside. Whereas they think of hostels at places where individuals and small groups casually drop in, but essentially where people do not know each other.

The Building Regulations (and other recent buildings-related legislation) would quite clearly place club-huts in the "hostel" category, but if you insist that your club-hut is merely "self-catering accommodation" then you might just have the odd legal leg to stand on, but I cannot possibly recommend this!

If, on the other hand, you are a very small club with only a tiny number of members, all of whom are good and regular friends and you do not invite other clubs, or non-members to come along and stay with you then you will most probably be quite in order to regard your premises as a sort of small-family self-catering unit, and thus not covered by this legislation. It would though, in my personal view, be preferable for you to ban smoking by mutual agreement, just as is frequently the arrangement in many domestic properties (homes).

David Judson

1 Primary legislation of the UK or Scottish Parliaments: Smoking, Health + Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005 (asp13); and Health Act 2006(Ch.28). Secondary legislation: The Prohibition of Smoking in Certain Premises (Scotland) Regs 2006/90(s); The Smoke-free (Premises + Enforcement) Regs 2006/3368; Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order 2006/2957 (ni20); The Smoke-free (Signs) Regs 2007; The Smoke-free (Exemptions + Vehicles) Regs 2007; The Smoke-free Premises etc (Wales) Regs 2007/787 (w.68)

2 January 2007 in Northern Ireland; March 2007 in Scotland; April 2007 in Wales & 1 July 2007 in England.

3 N.B: Clubs + organisations that are Registered Charities are usually required to have a clause in their constitutions stating that they serve the General Public!

Displaying 'Signage' in your Premises under the new Smoking Law

If your interpretation of the law leads you to decide that your 'premise' will be a no-smoking premise then signage is mandatory:

Signs can be home-made, but they need to comply with the following criteria:

1. They need to be not less than A5 (vertical) in format;
2. They need to show the internationally accepted no-smoking sign (a red circle of min.70mm dia.) with a diagonal red line clearly crossing a black smoking cigarette, displayed above the words (in black) "It is against the law to smoke in these premises", all on a white background; and
3. One of these signs needs to be displayed upon or adjacent to each and every entrance to the premise (building).

BCA/BCRA Membership Officer

Glenn Jones, c/o The Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, Buxton, SK17 8RG

Tel; 01270 768522

membership@british-caving.org.uk

BCA Newsletter Editorial Address

BCA N/L Editor, Jim Cochrane, BCA N/L Editor, 148 Mackintosh Place, Cardiff, CF24 4RS
E-mail: newsletter@british-caving.org.uk

Note: The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the formal view of the British Caving Association.

BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION WEB SERVICES

The British Caving Association can now offer cut price web hosting solutions for its members. **Basic Webhosting** (Windows 2003 servers) £25 Per year (includes unlimited POP3 mail boxes, unlimited Email forwarding, personal control panel, Perl, PHP, compiled CGI support)

Linux Webhosting (latest Redhat Linux servers, Apache,) £40 per year (includes unlimited POP3 mail boxes, unlimited Email forwarding, personal control panel, Perl, PHP, compiled CGI support). Other features available:

Domain registration and renewal, Password Protection, Spam Filtering, Virus Scanning, Web Stats plus ASP, .NET Framework, FrontPage Extensions, ODBC, Databases.

Contact the webmaster for details and prices:

webmaster@british-caving.org.uk

Mountain Rescue Petition

The following may be of interest to some readers,

Dear All

Could I ask you to take a moment to look at the link below, which will take you to the 10 Downing Street web site regarding the call for the financial support by UK Government of Mountain Rescue in England & Wales.

If you feel you also support this petition then please sign it also and should you wish to pass this on to others also please feel free.

Many thanks in anticipation.

Kind Regards,

Alan George

This link will access the 10 Downing Street web site:

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/MountainRescue/>



THE CAVE INVENTORY OF TURKEY

<http://tayproject.org>

on the net...

TAY Projesi / TAY Project - <http://tayproject.org> ...13th year
The Archaeological Settlements of Turkey
Kuruçesme Cad. 67/B, 34345 Kuruçesme, Istanbul, Turkey
Phone : +90 212 265 7858, Fax: +90 212 287 1298
e.mail: info@TAYProject.org, web: <http://tayproject.org>

Hidden Earth 2007 : 21–23 September

This year, the UK's national caving conference & exhibition will be at Tewkesbury School, Gloucestershire on **21-23 September**. Tewkesbury is very close to junction 9 of the M5, and is situated near to Gloucester, Cheltenham and Worcester, and within easy reach of the caving areas of South Wales, Mendip and Forest of Dean. On-site events will include...

Expedition and science lectures ♦ Regional UK caving round-ups ♦ Meetings and workshops ♦
Trade and club stands in the exhibition area ♦ Photo and art displays ♦ Competitions ♦ BCA rope testing rig

Speleo-Olympics: Grab a mate and try the newly-designed 2007 caver assault course, with the prospect of winning a bottle of champagne and your names on the trophy. (The event will take place at times throughout the weekend, in the exhibition area).

SRT Competitions: Prusik race, assault course (passing re-belays) tackle-bag stuffing and, in remembrance of pre-SRT days, a ladder climbing race. Men's and women's prizes in each category. Once again, these competitions are organised by Mark Wright Training, who will be offering the prize of an Industrial Rope Access Course to the overall winner. (Event will take place at announced times throughout the weekend, in the exhibition area).

Saturday Evening: This year's after-dinner speaker is Dick Willis. Dick has caved since 1972 with UBSS and SLUGS and has participated in more than 20 major caving expeditions overseas. He describes himself as "the bald old git who stands up and speaks at the end of dinners". Come and see him do that at ours! After the dinner there will be the usual **Stomp** and **Bar**. Once again, the bar will be run by cavers, so the beer won't run out; and the **on-site camping** means you won't have to stagger far afterwards.

The BCA Rope Testing Rig will be on site and the BCA's training committee will be organising training workshops.

Competitions

For details of all these competitions, including rules and guidelines, please visit hidden-earth.org.uk.

BCRA Photo Salon: The Photo Salon is a place where everyone from beginner to seasoned professional can display their photographs. There are three main categories of competition – colour and monochrome print, and 'projected images' (slides and digital). Additional prizes include the prestigious Premier trophy, best UK newcomer, cave life and the fun shot, judged by the audience 'laughometer'. Prizes in all categories. This year, there are two additional special photographic prizes...

Mike Moore Books is offering a £100 cash prize for the best photograph with a mining or man-made underground theme.
Speleo Technics is offering a £100 cash prize for the best shot of a Speleo Technics product in use.

There is also a non-competition category to the Photo Salon – the 'digital showcase'. Just bring along a CDROM of your photos and they will be displayed on a monitor in the exhibition area.

Video Media Salon: The term 'video media' is intended to encompass all depictions of moving images and sequences of pictures and the competition will cover any aspect of caves, mines or potholes. Entries will be screened at the conference and will be judged for their artistic, technical and aesthetic qualities with particular emphasis on artistic originality and innovation. Prizes awarded.

ISSA Art & Cartoon Salons: These are open to all forms of visual art, except photographs, including drawing, painting, print-making, sculpture and textiles relating to any aspect of caves and caving. Entries will be judged for their popular appeal by a ballot of conference delegates. Organised for *Hidden Earth* by the International Society for Speleological Art.

- ♦ Display your **Club T-shirt** and if it catches people's eye for its art or wit, you may win a prize.
- ♦ Try our **Closed-loop Surveying Competition** and show us how good (or bad) you really are at cave surveying.
- ♦ Design an impressive **Caving Club Stand** and win a prize.

Programme

Friday: Local field trips may take place during the day (*Please check web site or enquire*)

- ♦ Bar and Registration 20:00 to 22:30 ♦ Trade hall set-up 18:00 to 22:30 (no public access – stall-holder set-up only)

Saturday: Doors open 09:00 ♦ Exhibition hall open 9.00 to 17:00 ♦ Opening ceremony 09:45 ♦ Lectures 10:15 to 17:00 ♦ Dinner 18:30 (Guest speaker Dick Willis. Dinner must be booked in advance) ♦ Stomp (with Loose Change) & Bar 20:30

Sunday: Doors open 09:00 ♦ Exhibition hall open 9.00 to 16:15 ♦ Lectures 09:30 to 16:00 ♦ Closing ceremony 16:15 to 17:00.

Booking and Contact Information

For more information, visit our web site hidden-earth.org.uk or contact our bookings manager at the address below

Admission fees unchanged for three years. The rate 'on the door' is **£15/day** or **£25** for the weekend, with discounts for advance booking. The Saturday dinner is **£14** and must be booked in advance. Camping is **£5/tent**. **To book:** please register on-line at hidden-earth.org.uk, then pay by PayPal, NoChex, or post us a cheque. If you prefer, you may download a paper booking form or, if you do not have Internet access, please send a self-addressed envelope to our bookings manager, marked 'booking form'.

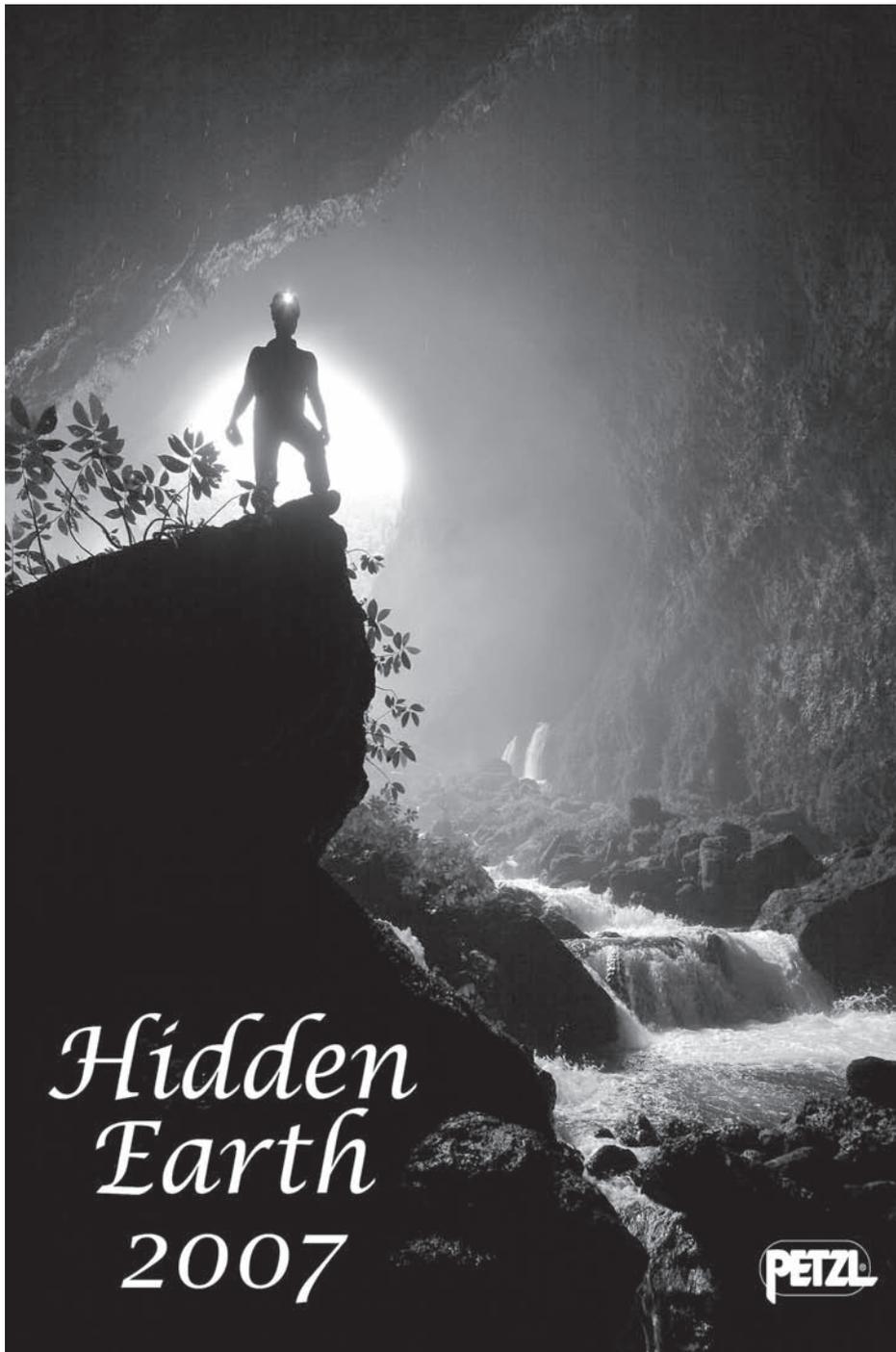
Bookings Manager and all Enquiries:

Wendy Williams, 51 Churchill Road East, WELLS, BA5 3HU. 01749 679839. book-2007@hidden-earth.org.uk

Offers of Lectures and Presentations:

Jacky Ankerman, 48 Deverill Road, WARMINSTER, BA12 9QR. 01985 212690. lectures@hidden-earth.org.uk

Photograph opposite by Robbie Shone ♦ **Hidden Earth** is an activity of the **British Cave Research Association** (UK registered charity, number 267828). The Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, BUXTON, SK17 8RG ♦ BCRA is a constituent body of the British Caving Association, undertaking charitable activities on behalf of BCA.



*Hidden
Earth
2007*



BCA Equipment & Techniques Committee

Report on Failure of an Anchor in Rhino Rift and work by BCA's Equipment Committee

On 26th March a report was made about the loss of some resin from an Eco Anchor placed under the BCA (formally NCA) Eco Anchor scheme at the first pitch in Rhino Rift during an SRT trip the previous day. The anchor was subjected to an examination and test on the 26th March. The examination confirmed the loss of some resin (fortunately a "before" photo was found of the anchor) together with the presence of a new crack in the rock surface radiating away from the anchor hole. If nothing else, the new crack means that the location of the anchor cannot be reused.

The anchor was then tested with the "puller". On initially placing a 6 kN force on the anchor, the force gauge indicated the force slowly falling off. The force was increased several times, but it was clear that the gauge was continually indicating that the force was slowly falling off. It was decided that the anchor would not pass the "withstand for 15 seconds a force of 6 kN" test, so the force was increased to 10 kN. The anchor moved a further 5 mm before withstanding the 10 kN force. The observations are not clear as to whether the anchor moved from the resin or the anchor and resin moved from the rock.

This is the first failure where an Eco Anchor placed under the BCA scheme has failed its test by being pulled out of the resin at such a low force level of less than 6 kN. BCA has carried out similar tests (normally at 6 kN as recommended by the British Standard BS 7883:2005) on other Eco Anchors placed under the scheme without any similar failure. Normally Eco Anchors start to give at around 20 kN when the head deforms and then pull out of the resin at around 40 kN. One good feature was the failed anchor did not come all the way out of the resin, so in that sense it was not a catastrophic failure. The anchor did not cause any one to be injured unlike other failures on other common anchors used underground. For comparison on strength, one other frequently used anchor starts to deform at 15 kN and fails catastrophically at around 20 kN. Another type of anchor now available on the market has been measured to fail at around 10 kN.

The anchor was subsequently removed from the rock. Unfortunately the anchor was extracted after much effort separately from bits of resin and rock. What can be confirmed is that the anchor had been fully embedded in resin and that from the samples of resin retained, no obvious signs of air bubbles were present in the resin.

In response to this failure, records of all anchors on Mendip were subject to scrutiny and a number of other anchors in other caves were tested with the puller. Some of these anchors also failed this test at 6 kN, but NONE moved as the Rhino Rift anchor did, when a further force of 10 kN was applied.

Further work including theoretical calculations, has shown that because of the shape of the Eco Anchor's head, it is possible to place a load on the anchor which causes the head to unbend causing cracking in the surface resin. It should be noted that over 300 anchors have been tested without these problems arising.

Another problem which arose in response to the failure was the lack of Eco Anchors. Equipment Committee had learnt that DMM, the manufacturer, had decided some while ago to not make any more Eco Anchors and had started a process of selecting a new anchor. A Discussion Document had been issued (see BCA's web site Equipment page for a copy) for

comment. So initially it was thought that no spare Eco Anchors were available to replace failed anchors. However, following an appeal, enough Eco Anchors were found to enable replacement work to take place in Rhino Rift and else where.

A meeting of the BCA's Equipment Committee was held on 19 May to discuss the findings of the work done. The following is the statement issued by Equipment Committee following their consideration of the information obtained.

**Statement from the Equipment & Techniques Committee,
concerning Rhino Rift**

Following a report of loss of resin from an anchor in Rhino Rift, an investigation was put in hand by the Equipment Committee.

As a result, precautionary measures were taken where appropriate to restrict access to certain sites pending a full investigation of the problem.

As a result of this investigation the Equipment Committee have concluded that there is not a safety issue in the caves concerned.

The Equipment Committee have, however, identified some failings in the Eco Anchor program procedures and have agreed changes which are intended to prevent these problems re-occurring.

It was also agreed that the disadvantages of using a puller as part of routine testing outweigh the advantages and as a result the Equipment Committee no longer recommend that Eco Anchors be pulled as part of routine testing.

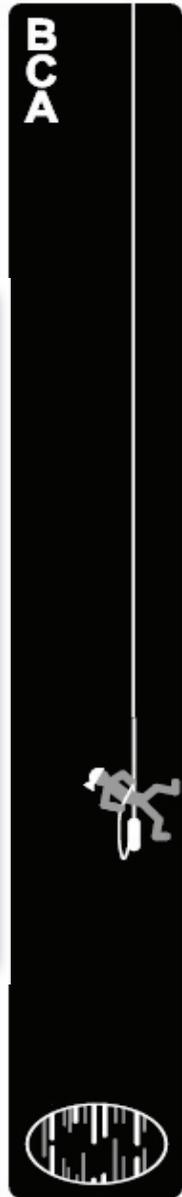
Andy Pryke, Chairman Equipment & Techniques Committee

British Caving Association, 19/05/07

All of the caves have now been re-opened.

More recently, the first batch of new anchors has been tested with "interesting" results. Although the strength of the anchor in axial or "pull out" mode is more than sufficient to meet the British Standard for Mountaineering anchors (BS EN 959:1997), the results point to a need to do some more tests to sort out the behaviour of the resin under damp and wet conditions.

Main Report: Bob Mehew



Membership

c/o The old Methodist Chapel,
Great Hucklow, Buxton, SK17 8RG.

Tel 01270 768522

membership@british-caving.org.uk

Regional News & Access

Mendip

Regional Council - COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS

For information on CSCC, send S.A.E to: Hon. Secretary: Carmen Smith, 12 Harbour Road, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 4AN.

Tel. 01935 816267

E-m: secretary@csc.org.uk

Website: www.csc.org.uk

Derbyshire

Regional Council - DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

For information on DCA, send S.A.E to:

Hon. Secretary, Jenny Potts, 3 Greenway, Hulland Ward, Ashbourne, Derbys. DE6 3FE.

Tel: 01335-370629, E-m: dca@theDCA.org.uk

Website: www.theDCA.org.uk

North

Regional Council - COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

For information on CNCC, send S.A.E to:

Hon. Secretary, Les Sykes, 49 Manfield, Ashurst, Skelmersdale, Lancs. WN8 6SU

Tel/Fax. 01695-728673

E-m: les@speleoadventure.wanadoo.co.uk

Bullpot Farm

Despite a huge amount of work by the Red Rose CPC Committee, the DEFRA Rural Development grant application for funds to make major improvements to Bullpot Farm has failed. The application was returned with the comment that it was a very well worded proposal, but unfortunately the application was deemed ineligible because the club is not 'community based' and we do not have a long-term lease on the building. It was also felt that it did not provide a reasonable return on the investment in terms of spin-off tourist benefit and jobs created.

A new lease with the landlord cannot be agreed without the improvements being funded, but it is difficult to finance the improvements without a long-term lease of the property. Nevertheless, work continues to try to resolve

this situation and secure the club's future at the farm. We will shortly be going back to our landlord with an alternative plan, involving a less ambitious development of the buildings but using the business plan we have already developed. Phase 1 of this work, which we hope to commence this summer, would be to develop the changing rooms and downstairs toilets along with better parking facilities, involving the tidying up of the ruined barns at the side of the property and to commence 'infra-structural developments for future works' e.g. rewiring. It is important to stress that none of this work can go ahead **until** an agreement has been reached with the owner.

The Red Rose's conservation and access work on Casterton Fell and its caves is of great importance and the loss of the Farm would be of wider significance than just for the club itself - it would affect caving on Casterton Fell in general. We would like to thank many individual cavers and clubs who have already made financial contributions. We will be continuing to raise money, especially now that we are unlikely to get any large grant. Any help, financial or otherwise, that can be offered towards the cause will be greatly appreciated. Donations should be made out to the Red Rose Cave and Pothole Club Appeal and sent to the address below.

If you are able to Gift Aid any donation it also enables the Club to recoup a further 28% from the Inland Revenue. A suitable Gift Aid form can be down loaded from the club website at www.rrcpc.org.uk. Just follow the link Restoration Appeal on the home-page

The RRCPC Gift Aid Co-coordinator,
7 Broadacre, Caton,
Lancaster LA2 9NF.

Wales

Regional Council - CAMBRIAN CAVING COUNCIL

For Information on CCC send S.A.E to:

Hon. Chairman, Sue Mabbett, 2 Garth Close, Morganstown, Cardiff, CF15 8LF.

Tel: 02920 -844558,

E-m: chair@cambriancavingcouncil.org.uk

Forest Of Dean

Regional Contact - FOREST OF DEAN CAVE CONSERVATION AND ACCESS GROUP

Hon. Secretary, John W Hine, The Grottage, 2 Cullis Lane, Mile End, Coleford, Glos, GL16 7QF. Tel: 01594 833217

E-m: mole@grottage.fsworld.co.uk

Obituaries

Since this newsletter last went to press, the caving world has lost many friends. Though their passing has been widely publicised within Journals and fellow publications, the BCA would like to offer its respects.

Roy Paulson

Roy was born in Belper, Derbyshire, in 1929 and died, aged 77, at Ripley Hospital on 19 February. Roy was treasurer of the Peak District Mines Historical Society for a number of years and his business background was useful in setting up the Peak District Mining Museum at Matlock Bath. For many years he was recorder and librarian for PDMHS. He was actively interested in mine exploration and continued into his 70's.

Roy had a major interest in printing publications. Recipients of his services, supplied always at the cost of materials only, included PDMHS, DCA, NCA and BCA (for whom he produced NCA SpeleoScene, the LCMLA Training Publications, the BCA Handbooks, etc.) and BCRA.

Roy was best known to BCRA members as their Librarian from 1980 until his death. He was instrumental in the setting up of the National Caving Library at Matlock County Library. He continued to add to the library as books and periodicals arrived from the UK and overseas, regularly updating the catalogue whilst keeping valuable and fragile caving documents at his home.

Roy's time was given freely and it is only now that he is no longer with us that we realise just how much work he did for us all. Our condolences go to Molly, his widow, and the family.

Jenny Potts (extracted from a full obituary, Speleology, 9, April 07)

Dave 'Wig' Irwin

Whatever Dave did, he did it with passion, conviction and dedication. A Life member of Somer Valley Cycling Club, and by his own admission

"completely married to caving" he remarked that he wasn't interested in caving "just obsessed".

Dave began caving in 1953 with Westminster SG, however, soon joined the BEC as member 540. Within three years he was a life member and over the years held the posts of Librarian and Belfry Bulletin Editor.

St. Cuthbert's Swallet was Dave's favourite Mendip cave and he was a great source of information. He was always willing to direct you to possible new dig sites or suggest passages that needed looking at. He had completed in excess of 750 trips, many to survey and dig.

Dave wrote many BB articles and the 1991 St. Cuthbert's report included a very intricate survey which stands as testimony to his dedication.

Dave was a founder member of BCRA and contributed many items including most recently Cave Studies 14: Swildon's 2 & 3. He was regularly published in the Shepton Mallet CC and University of Bristol SS journals. He was honorary vice president of Wessex CC and had just finished editing their long awaited History of Swildons. He was also an MRO warden from 1966 to 1982.

He co-authored four editions of Mendip Underground, chaired the Mendip Cave Registry in 1997 and in 2005 compiled and published the two volumes of the Mendip Cave Bibliography.

Dave's Townsend cottage in Priddy always an open door for cavers young and old and in true BEC style he lived life everything to excess.

Martin Grass (edited from Speleology 9)

The BEC has recently lost another friend, **Barry Wilton** who will be fondly remembered, whilst on 16 Dec 2006, the Belfry lost founding father, **Harry Stanbury**, Member No. 1, at 90 years of age. Derbyshire has lost **Ian 'Buster' Wright**.

Frank Baguley

Frank was always involved in sport; hill walking; canoeing; water polo; swimming; cycling. He joined SWCC in 1963 developing a lifelong passion for caving, including two trips to Balinka Pit in Jugoslavia, developing much of the crucial winch equipment for their success.

He was at one time secretary of Cambrian Caving Council, contributor to the Cambrian Cave Registry and Secretary of the NCA (now BCA) and representative of caving to many organisations, well respected and awarded for his service by the Welsh Sports Council.

Mick Day (edited from Speleology 9)

TRAINING COURSES

LCMLA LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REVALIDATION WORKSHOPS

LCMLA holders are advised to contact their Area Liaison Officer for other Revalidation Workshops. Names and contact details may be found on the Training Pages on BCA's web site www.british-caving.org.uk

CIC REVALIDATION WORKSHOPS

(Contact the Training Administration Service Provider for an application form)

Several courses are available towards the end of the year and in early 2008. Please visit the training pages of the BCA website for details and contacts.

www.british-caving.org.uk

CIC TRAINING COURSES 2007

4 - 7 December	Northern England	Tony Flanagan – 015242 41210 Ffrancon, Thornton-in-Lonsdale, Ingleton, via Carnforth, Lancs LA6 3PB Email: tony@flanagans.fsnet.co.uk	Ingleborough Hall Residential or non-residential
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LCMLA Level 1 & 2 Training Courses 2007

LCMLA Level 1 and Level 2 training courses can be found on the BCA website Training pages and the list is updated regularly.

For any other enquiries contact the Training Administration Provider at BCA Training Administration, Karen Slatcher, Hefford House, Main Street, Winster, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 2DH. Email: trainadmin@british-caving.co.uk

Training publications may also be obtained direct from BCA Training Administration

DEADLINES FOR FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Ghar Parau Expedition Grants: 31 August. Contact the Secretary, Hurst Barn, Castlemorton, Malvern, Worcs, WR13 6LF. Tel/Fax 01684- 311057. E-mail: d.judson@bcra.org.uk

BCRA Research Fund: 1 April, 1 August, 1 December. E-mail: research-fund@bcra.org.uk

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

**Baltic Speleological Congress 2007 Visby,
Gotland, Sweden, 13-15 August 2007**
www.speleo.se/bsc

Gotland is a karst island east of the Swedish mainland. Visby, the main city on Gotland, is an old medieval Hansa city. It has been chosen by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The congress venue will be at Wisby Strand. Detailed information on catering facilities, meeting facilities, stand facilities, etc. can be found at: www.wisbystrand.se. Registration forms for on-line registration are available on the website www.speleo.se/bsc.

**European Speleological Congress
23-31st August, Vercors 2008**

The next European Speleological Congress Vercors 2008, will be held last week of August 2008 in Lans-en-Vercors in the Northern French Alps.

EXPLORATION ... this is the key word that animates the team organising Vercors 2008. This team of 70 cavers from 7 European countries, are day after day giving life to a dream that started a year and half ago...

As with a "premiere" exploration that we prepare for months before; dreaming of each "spit" that we will plant, each stone that we will displace, each stalagmite that we will avoid, each passage that we will enlarge; the Vercors 2008 team is happy to announce that Registration is now open!

The sessions will be organised around several activities: presentations/conferences, debates, round-tables, videos, films, slide-shows, posters, workshops, practical work, outdoor and underground activities, etc... You can already send your ideas or proposal for articles, videos, slides, posters, equipments, etc, to those responsible for the sessions you are interested in.

Vercors 2008 is not a traditional congress, it is THE meeting that we, all European cavers, have dreamt about. We invite you to have a taste at: <http://www.vercors2008.eu>

Eight days of congress includes 7 major speleological events; All the presentations of the European Congress, EuroSpeleo Image'Inn, Festival's films, Historical exhibition 1888-2008, plus Photo & Survey Contests, SpeleoArts, and evenings including music, SpeleoBar and speleo-shows. Full CD-Proceedings, opening and closing aperitifs, and a useful surprise-present will all be included.

Register now at <http://vercors2008.eu/registration.htm#registernow>. Email : contact.vercors2008@ffspeleo.fr
Report; Olivier Vidal

Secr. General FSUE www.fsue.org

BCA TRAINING COMMITTEE, 2007-8

Items for consideration by the committee should be raised through your constituent body representative or sent to the Training Officer.

Members of the Training Committee 2007-8

Convenor & Training Office

Graham Mollard, Micawber, Yew Bank,
Skipton Road, Utley, BD20 6HJ.

Tel. 01535 691587, E-mail:

training.officer@british-caving.org.uk

**A Representative from each of BCA's
constituent bodies:**

These are currently:

The Regional Councils of Caving:

- Cambrian Caving Council
- Council of Northern Caving Clubs
- Council of Southern Caving Clubs
- Derbyshire Caving Association
- Devon & Cornwall Underground Council

**The other bodies which represent
specialist interests:**

- Association of Caving Instructors
- British Cave Research Association
- British Cave Rescue Council
- Cave Diving Group
- Council of Higher Education Caving Clubs
- National Assn. Mining Historical Organisations
- William Pengelly Cave Studies Trust

Co-Opted Members are:

- John Cliffe, 4 Kensington Avenue, Lansdown, Cheltenham, Glos. GL50 2NQ. Tel. 01242-262505 E-mail: jcliffe@gxn.co.uk
- A representative of the Forest of Dean Conservation & Access group.
- The Chairmen of the CIC Panel and the National Co-ordinating Panel.

EVENTS - BCA AT THE OUTDOOR SHOW

(The Following article also appears in Speleology issue 9, April 2007)

It is 6.30pm on Sunday and I'm stood on top of a large half dismantled plastic and polystyrene cave with a saw in one hand and a hammer in the other – desperately trying to dismantle the thing. Then I look up and realise everyone else seems to have disappeared – climbing over the cave I see the group of 17 cavers all stuffing their faces with left over pastries which Simon Froude has some how managed to blag!! I'm soon joining in, whilst perched on my cave and thinking back over the past four manic days...

From Friday 16th- Sunday 18th March the BCA ran a stand at the Ordnance Survey National Outdoor Show (NEC).

This is the first time we have done anything like this and the idea had been put in my head by Joel Corrigan some four months earlier when discussing the Try Caving initiative.

Still at this point it was just an idea and I had no concept of what this would involve – except that going to these sorts of shows is normally expensive!!

Nick Williams gave me a good contact with the BMC to find out how they did things and after this I approached the show organisers with lots of ideas on what we could do for them. To which they came back and said “great – and would you like to bring a large artificial cave?”

The YHA had had an artificial cave built for last years show but weren't interested in bringing it this year so we were recruited instead. This offer came complete with a massive 10mx15m stand and various entries in the show guide and on the website – the only catch was that we had to get this cave there!!

So at 9.45 on Thursday 15th of March a group of us was stood outside of the NEC manhandling massive chunks of polystyrene off the side of an articulated lorry and into the hall to complete the worlds most bizarre 3d

jigsaw puzzle.

By about 1pm the cave was assembled and being dressed with foliage whilst the rest of us set up banners, posters, signs and a large projector and screen. After fun and games getting the electric sorted on the stand we finally left at about 7pm and headed back to the Dudley CC Windmill. This lovely hut was base camp for the stream of volunteers who came to help over the course of the long weekend and we must thank Dudley CC for their hospitality.

We made it to the NEC with half an hour to spare in the Friday morning traffic and quickly got ready for the crowds – at 10am the doors opened and they poured in – swarming all over the show to see what this year had to offer.

Our cave was a popular attraction. About 5m x 5m and 3m tall it allowed people to try caving in a safe and fun environment. Complete with squeezes a short climb – everyone who went inside loved it (well almost). We even had loan of a video camera helmet which showed what those inside were experiencing on a large plasma screen outside.

Mean while we were all busy talking to people and signing them up for caving trips which Graham Mollard had got the CIC trainer assessors to put on for us. Nigel Atkins (an old hand at the show) was busy filming for local BBC and the camera men loved the novelty of our cave! All the helpers on the stand talked to lots of passers about caving, wrote down their details when they wanted more information and handed out flyers and leaflets.

Friday was our baptism of fire – the least busy day and it was still manic! We knew Saturday would be even harder and we had learnt lots of lessons about how to handle the crowds. Some of the volunteers left after Friday whilst the student contingent from Cardiff arrived that night to bolster the numbers. With another couple of young BEC members and four from Dudley CC we went for the second day well prepared.

A huge number of people attended the show and the aisle ways were packed with visitors. Our cave proved a massive success and was extremely popular all day long. We brought the Dudley CC squeeze machine as well which the crowds also loved and our make shift cinema – showing 'Wookey Exposed' and 'China beneath the wall' was packed all day long. Released from being a TV presenter Nigel Atkins wowed crowds by going up and down an SRT rope with his super-fast rope walking at the side of our stand and at lunch time Scoff and Dave Ryall from the BPC did a cave diving talk over in the Water Sports theatre which was extremely well attended. Saturday was a long day and by the end at 6 o'clock we were all knackered! Some over priced beer and free food were our rewards at the organisers party before we headed back to the Windmill and our last night in Dudley.

On Sunday morning none of us felt like getting up but we dragged ourselves from our beds for a final day facing the crowds. Another busy day at the show followed, our trip sheets filled up and the list of people interested in caving got longer. In total we took down the details of more than 200 people who expressed an interest in caving and handed out even more flyers. We met ex-cavers who wanted to take the sport back up, plenty of people who had caved once but didn't know what to do now and lots who had no idea about how to get involved. We promoted the BCA and caving in general and made many contacts for the future (we may even get the Red Bull girls to Hidden Earth!!)

Our thanks must go to all those who helped out with everything they did – in no particular order: Dave Cooke, Les Williams, Simon Froude, Martell Linsdell, Idris Williams, Helen Brooke, Bob Mehew, Jenny Potts, Boyd Potts, Graham Mollard, Nigel Atkins, Emma Porter, Mike Clayton, Deanne Wilkins, Matt Traver, Ian Holmes, Mark Stephens, Duncan Butler, Charlotte Harris and Nigel Ball. + Bernies, Les Sykes, Hitch n' Hike, and Hidden Earth for lending us various bits of kit.

*Chris Jewell,
Youth and Development Officer*

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* Numbers 2 and 6 are out of print, but have been updated by 11 and 10 respectively.

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Dates for your Diary

COURSES, CONFERENCES, EVENTS, ETC. 2007

MEETINGS 2007

Sep 9, Cambrian Caving Council meeting, Forest of Dean

Sep 15, 2007, CSCC Council Meeting, Hunters Inn, Priddy, 10:30am

Sep 21-23, (Fri-Sun) **Hidden Earth 2007**. The National Caving Conference. Tewkesbury School, Gloucestershire. www.hidden-earth.org.uk see **pages 4-5**.

Sep 22, BCRA AGM, Tewkesbury School, Gloucestershire.

Oct 13, 2007, BCA Council Meeting, 10.30am, Baptist Hall, Alvechurch, Worcs.

Oct 20, DCA Council Meeting, Monyash Village Hall, 10:00am

Nov 18, 2007 BCRA Council Meeting

Dec 2007, CSCC Council Meeting, Hunters Inn, Priddy, 10:30am

MEETINGS 2008

Jan 5, BCA Council Meeting, Baptist Hall, Alvechurch, Worcs., 10.30am

Feb 23, DCA Annual General Meeting, Monyash Village Hall, 10:00am

Feb CSCC Council Meeting, Hunters Inn, Priddy, 10:30am

Mar 8, BCRA Cave Science Symposium, University of Loughborough

Apr 5, BCA AGM, Baptist Hall, Alvechurch, Worcs., 10.30am

Apr 5, Charterhouse Caving Company Ltd - AGM, Hunters Lodge, Priddy, 10:30am

May CSCC Council Meeting, Hunters Inn, Priddy, 10:30am

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS 2007

Check for details of these and other international events on the UIS Speleo Calendar at:

<http://www.uis-speleo.org/calendar/events.html> and www.ijs-speleo.it.

Aug 13-15, (Mon-Wed) Baltic Speleological Congress 2007, Visby, Gotland, Sweden (**page 11**)

Aug 23-31, **2008** (Sat) IVth European Speleological Congress, Lans-en-Vercors, Isère, France

Jul 19-26, **2009** (Sun) 15th International Congress of Speleology, Kerrville, Texas, USA.

www.ics2009.us

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