

The British Caving Association

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to issue 13 of the BCA Newsletter.

Whereas a typical BCA Newsletter generally has a paper-circulation of around 600, this issue is being sent to over 6,000 members. The reason? At the BCA AGM in March some amendments to our Constitution were approved and for these to be fully ratified, we need to conduct a ballot of all members, including our Club Individual Members (or CIMs as we tend to refer to them!). Normally CIMs don't receive publications, but since we are posting out ballot papers, it seemed sensible to send them a Newsletter too, so they could see a little bit of what they are missing.

If you are a CIM and are reading this for the first time, we hope you find it useful. Should you decide that you would like to upgrade your membership and support BCA's publications in the future, then you can do so easily. It is also relatively cheap to do so. Just have a look at the back page for further information.

Included with this newsletter is a booklet outlining the proposed constitutional changes and a ballot slip for you to cast your vote. Please note that you must vote on each group of amendments separately. For a group of amendments to be successful, they must be supported by at least 70% of those individuals who respond, as well as by at least 70% of those clubs who respond.

BCA Council and the AGM recommend members accept the changes, as they help to streamline our procedures. To vote you should return your completed, signed papers to the BCA Hon. Secretary by Saturday, 7th August.

Special Offer:

CIMs, upgrade your membership NOW for ONLY £7.50 and continue to receive BCA publications for the remainder of 2010. See P12 for further details.

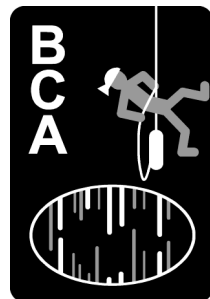
Any queries, or requests for further explanation of the reasons behind an amendment, should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary (secretary@british-caving.org.uk or 01274 604706).

Finally I wish you all a pleasant summer's caving, wherever it may take you!

BCA Handbook 2010-11

The 2010-11 edition of the BCA Handbook is now complete. It contains its usual wealth of information about BCA and its Constituent Bodies and is a useful addition to any caver's bookshelf. Copies were posted to DIM, CIM+, Club and Associate members at the end of May. CIMs, or other interested persons, can purchase a paper copy for £3 from BCA Publication Sales (publication.sales@british-caving.org.uk) or download a pdf version free from the BCA website.

Regrettably one error has already emerged: the dates for this year's Hidden Earth are actually 24th-26th September .



News from BCA Council

BCA Council met on 5th June 2010 and, as usual, Officers' Report and Draft Minutes can be found on the BCA website. However, the more interesting (!) points are summarised below:

CHECC Rope-Rescue Training

BCA was pleased to be able sponsor a rope-rescue course for University Clubs run by Mark Wright and was even more pleased that the event actually came in substantially under budget, in the end needing a subsidy of only £150. Thanks are due to Mark Wright for giving up his time and experience, and to Henry Rockcliff for organising the whole event.

Club Individual Member Details

In preparation for the ballot of all our members that accompanies this newsletter, BCA's Membership Secretary, Glenn Jones, has had his work cut out tidying up the database of CIMs' names and addresses. CIM membership is the cut-price BCA membership option that allows the majority of BCA members to save money by their club agreeing to do the administration themselves. This places the onus on Clubs to provide an accurate list of members' names & addresses at the beginning of each calendar year.

Unfortunately, it seems Clubs do not all do this task well with, for example, members' entire addresses being put in one cell, or sometimes no address being provided at all. Glenn estimates that he has spent over 20 hours tidying up this data.

Despite these efforts there are still a number of members for whom we have no usable data. In these circumstances we have had to post their newsletters and ballot papers to their main club contact. Hopefully this will highlight the importance of completing the annual spreadsheet carefully and next year will see a considerable improvement in the quality of data returned.

BCA Accounts for 2009

BCA's 2009 Accounts have now been audited and they show that we have finally reached a situation of financial stability. Since BCA's inception in 2004 we have tried to build up a fund to allow for potential difficulties in the future. Thus we aim to hold sufficient reserves to cover two insurance claim excesses, plus a year's operating costs, including an insurance premium.

We are pleased to announce that we have now achieved this and that means BCA is well placed to deal with any potential problems in the future. Many thanks are due to Dave Cooke, in particular, for his efforts.

Euro-Speleo Forum 2016

Readers may well remember the 2008 fantastically organised Euro-Speleo Forum held in the Vercors, France. This was an excellent event bringing together well over 2,000 cavers from all across the world with a full programme of events throughout the week as well as an opportunity to descend a large number of pre-rigged caves in the area.

BCA has now expressed formal interest in running a similar event here in 2016. This has been met with encouragement by the Fédération Spéléologique Européenne (The European Caving Federation) and planning is now underway for this exciting, but challenging opportunity. The French did an excellent job in 2008 and we need to show we can do even better!

Sports Financial Services

A thread was started recently on the UkCaving forum about the difficulty of finding reasonably-priced financial services, such as life assurance, as a caver. All too often you are apparently faced with either a blanket refusal, or silly questions like “Do you go more than 1000m underground?”, only then to be told, “we will insure you for caving but not potholing”.

The reason is often that the underwriters simply do not understand our sport, but now help is at hand. Sports Financial Services have done the difficult negotiating with the underwriters and can help you to arrange life insurance, critical illness cover and income protection policies. Sports Financial Services employ staff, including a caver, who have many years experience in placing this type of cover. They represent the membership benefit services of a number of sports governing bodies and specialise in adventure sports.

BCA is pleased to endorse Sports Financial Services who offer improved terms for BCA members. So, when it comes to taking out new policies or renewing old ones, it is definitely worth giving them a call.

UK Cave Conservation Emergency Fund

The UK Cave Conservation Emergency Fund was established through BCA’s charitable arm, the BCRA, to provide financial assistance for sites of speleological significance, including caves and historic mines, which are under threat. Projects supported by the UKCCEF are normally required to be of an emergency nature and ones for which no other support is available. Funding is usually offered in the form of a loan, but grants are sometimes available. Further advice can be obtained from a member of the committee:

EQUALITY STATEMENT
 The BCA will make its services available to all sections of sporting community, there will be no discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, sexual orientation, creed, colour, occupation, religion or political opinion.

(BCRA) Joanne Whistler enquiries@ukccef.org.uk
 (CNCC) Phil Parker northern@ukccef.org.uk*
 (CSCC) Les Williams mendip@ukccef.org.uk
 (CCC) Elsie Little wales@ukccef.org.uk
 (DCA) Pete Mellors peak@ukccef.org.uk*

** subject to a re-nomination procedure currently taking place*

Ghar Parau Foundation

The Ghar Parau Committee manages an investment fund that was created with the proceeds of a number of successful expeditions to Iran in the 1970s and Borneo in the 1980s. Since then the fund has grown with careful management and the addition of donations from other expeditions. The income from this fund is distributed annually to assist caving expeditions from Britain to all parts of the world. In particular the committee looks for expeditions whose aims and methods include an element of innovative exploration or scientific study, as such distinguishing them from the typically sporting caving venture. The Committee looks particularly favourably on small expeditions to new and distant limestone areas.

The Foundation usually makes two or three small awards each year, totalling about £1,200. It also makes recommendations for grants from the Mount Everest Foundation. One application form covers all these funding sources, and there is a separate form for grants from the Sports Council for Wales. The next deadline for applications is 31st August 2010. See gharparau.org.uk for more information.

Dates for your diary

31st Aug Ghar Parau application deadline.

24th—26th Sept Hidden Earth
 Leek, Staffordshire

2nd Oct BCA Council meeting
 The British Caving Library

The British Caving Library

The British Caving Library is a national research and reference library based in the Peak District and staffed by a Senior Library Assistant. It is funded by the BCA and BCRA and run by the BCRA on behalf of cavers.

The BCL is for anyone with a general interest in caving, cave science and related areas and is currently based on two sites, Matlock and Glutton Bridge; however, the material at Matlock is being moved to the main Glutton Bridge site during May and the Matlock site will no longer operate. Details of opening times and the location of the Glutton Bridge library are on the website.

Simple enquiries or requests for specific articles can be emailed direct to the librarian. However, if you have a complex, general or vague request, it will help if you use a literature search form available from the library website.

BCA pays for the facility and there is no charge for reasonable use by members for the librarian's time, photocopying and postage, although the librarian may need to make a charge if an enquiry is unusually large.

Services and materials include:

- books, some dating back 100 years; expedition reports; maps, charts and surveys
- over 150 non-UK journal titles including Spelunca, Speleologia, Jaskinie, Helicite
- over 300 UK journal titles and club bulletins including all CRG / BCRA publications and complete runs of The British Caver and Descent
- a journal exchange scheme with many foreign and UK organisations
- photocopying and computer facilities
- information retrieval and help with research.

So, if you haven't already, make use of our library!

Contact:

The Librarian

British Caving Library, The Studio, Glutton Bridge,
BUXTON SK17 0EN Tel: 01298 83382

bca-librarian@bcra.org.uk

caving-library.org.uk

BCA needs a Child-Protection Co-ordinator

BCA has been without a dedicated Child-Protection Co-ordinator for some time. While the work has been completed in the meantime by a small group of volunteers, all of us have other things we should be doing for BCA instead.

Therefore, we are now looking for someone with the interest and enthusiasm to lead on this ever-changing area. If you are able to offer your services, or know someone who might be, please contact me for more information.

Damian Weare BCA Secretary
(secretary@british-caving.org.uk)

Newsletter Editor:

Mike Clayton
37 Woodcroft Avenue, Tipton,
West Midlands DY4 8AE

newsletter@british-caving.org.uk

Please 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.

Weil's Disease Leaflet

BCA has updated its Weil's Disease Leaflet and the new version is available for download from the BCA website. Some of its advice is reprinted here, and it is hoped this will encourage members to download and read the full document.

The national rat population is increasing and between 50% to 60% of rats carry and excrete the organism Leptospira ictero-haemorrhagiae in their urine. Infection of humans with this organism causes an illness (commonly called Weil's disease), which has been known to result in death in 10% of cases.

The organism enters the body through breaks in the skin such as cuts, blisters and abrasions, or via the lining of the nose, throat or alimentary tract.

The incubation period in 7-13 days and the disease starts with a fever, muscular aches and pains, loss of appetite and vomiting with prostration. Subsequent bruising of the skin, sore eyes, nose bleeds and jaundice may occur.

The fever lasts about five days and may be followed by significant deterioration.

It is vital that the doctor be told that the patient may have been in contact with a source of infection. The symptoms can easily be mistaken for those of flu and, if the patient has a clean occupation, the possibility of Weil's Disease may be overlooked in the early stages.

Remember: The disease is curable if recognised in time, but many doctors in urban areas will never have encountered it. If you have any reason to suspect that you have been infected, you may need to draw your doctor's attention to the possibility that the symptoms could be Weil's Disease.

BCA Resin Bonded Anchor Scheme: Key Results from Test Data

The following are the key findings from the numerous tests undertaken on correctly-installed Resin-Bonded Anchors (ECO/PECO anchor). The majority of the tests were supervised by an industrial

expert who provided the calibrated test equipment. All tests are "axial", or pulling directly out from the wall.

1. The ECO/PECO anchor begins to be extracted from the substrate at around 40Kn.

LEARNING POINT: The anchor does not fail catastrophically, that is, the anchor does not simply fall out of the substrate, it requires a further load of around 40Kn to continue the extraction.

2. At around 19Kn, the "P" of the anchor is deformed (NB: extraction does not occur to around 40Kn).

LEARNING POINT: This is considered a safety feature, as any anchor that has an elongated "P" has clearly been subjected to at least 19Kn, and should be replaced.

3. 12 tests were recorded to calculate the "Proof Test Load" which is 17Kn.

4. The "Safe Working Load" is calculated to be 11.46Kn exceeding both BSEN 795 and EN 959:2007.

5. Aerated concrete (breeze block) block test: An anchor was installed in an aerated concrete block and subjected to a load of 10Kn for 15 seconds.

This test was repeated 122 times (until the operator had a sense of humour failure). The purpose of this test was to demonstrate the strength of the resin bond in a substrate weaker than limestone.

LEARNING POINT: The BCA puller can only test to 10Kn and even though the Safe Working Load and Proof Load are greater than 10Kn, we wanted to demonstrate that repeated testing up to 10Kn had no detrimental impact in the integrity of the resin bond.

6. Radial testing: BCA has, as yet, been unable to locate a test rig that can be configured to test to egress in Radial mode (although we are still working on it).

7. Drop testing: Using lanyards manufactured specifically for the test programme, a number of FF1 drop test were undertaken using a 100kg weight. In each test, the "P" of the anchor was deformed, but the anchor remained secure in its placement. (Most of the lanyards failed on the second test – which was quite exciting!).

LEARNING POINT: In the majority of caving situations the ECO/PECO is loaded at 90 degrees to its fixing (Radial mode), which means an even greater strength to the anchor.

Regional News & Access Issues

DERBYSHIRE

Regional Council—Derbyshire Caving Association (DCA)

Hon Secretary: Jenny Potts, 3 Greenway, Hulland Ward, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 3FE
Tel: 01335 370629

Email: dca@theDCA.org.uk
Website: www.theDCA.org.uk

Serious Damage in Giant's Hole

On 6th April some serious and deliberate vandalism in Giant's Hole was reported to DCA. The damage affected the terminal chamber of Wet Inlets, an area which is not particularly easy to access since it involves a climb and squeezes. As such it is probably beyond the scope of 'punters' with a head torch.

The vandals have apparently used a rock to break off metre-long sections of stal, which have smashed on hitting the floor. Other formations from the same chamber have been snapped off and removed, leaving a scene of destruction in what was once a hidden gem. Giant's Hole is an SSSI, and so protected by law, and is also one of the caves being monitored by cavers on behalf of Natural England.

BCA is appealing to all cavers to help catch the culprits so they need to know, if possible, on what date the damage was done. Dave Webb, DCA Conservation Officer, is collating information so please contact Dave if you have any information. Dave also needs photographs taken of the intact chamber to establish exactly what has been broken or removed.

Contact: Dave Webb:
E. conservation-off@thedca.org.uk,
Tel. 0115-840-1109

JH/Speedwell: Connection Choke Collapsing

On 24th April it was reported that the boulder choke at the bottom of the fixed ladders in JH, leading through to the boulder piles has seen

significant movement. A large area of roof appeared very unstable, and there had been a lot of rock fall into the passage. DCA Projects Officer, Martyn Grayson, inspected the choke the following weekend and reported that it appeared to have stabilised a little, though he would be looking at strengthening the scaffolding asap. The problem is being caused by the water running through the choke gradually washing out the mine tailings which have "glued it together" so far. It is likely that the choke will continue to move in the future but will probably remain negotiable - however, IT NEEDS TREATING WITH EXTREME CARE AND RESPECT!

NORTH

Regional Council - Council of Northern Caving Clubs (CNCC)

Hon Secretary: Les Sykes, 49 Manfield, Ashurst, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 6SU
Tel/Fax: 01695 728673
Email: les@speleoadventure.wanadoo.co.uk

New Casterton Fell Meets Secretary

After over 20 years' sterling service as the Casterton Fell Meets Secretary, CNCC is sad to report the passing of Pete Muckalt. The new contact for caving on Casterton Fell is Alan Speight. He can be contacted at 8b Springfield, Bentham, Lancaster LA2 7BA or by e-mail at: alanmavisspeight@btinternet.com

Leck Fell Access Changes

Following negotiations with the Shuttleworth Estate, who own the Fell, CNCC is pleased to report that the new agreement allows for 3 permits per day with up to 7 cavers per permit, rather than 2 permits per day as was previously the case.

Excalibur Pot

CNCC has managed to negotiate access to Excalibur Pot, a relatively new find by York Caving Club of some 1.6km in the North York Moors.

Permission can be gained by contacting Matt Ewles at 31 Stephenson Close, Huntington, York, North Yorkshire, YO32 9GG (Telephone 07983 559566) or by e-mail at: Speleomatt@hotmail.co.uk.

Separately to this, York Caving Club has also just published a full A1 survey of Excalibur together with a beautifully produced accompanying booklet. They can be ordered from the York website. £1 from the sale of each one goes to UWFRA.

Aygill Caverns

Sometime towards the end of March the entrance to Aygill Caverns collapsed, leaving it accessible only to very thin cavers, and then only those who were very brave. CNCC responded quickly and the entrance is once again open and reasonably stable.

Wheatsheaf Pub Car Park

For years some cavers have made use of the Wheatsheaf car park in Ingleton, while they nip into Bernie's or Inglesport. However, be warned, that penalty notices are now being given out to non-patrons using the car park. This includes people parking early in the morning before the pub is open.

FOREST OF DEAN

Regional Contact - Forest of Dean Conservation and Access Group (FoDCAG)

Hon Secretary, John Hine, The Grottage, 2 Cullis Lane, Mile End, Coleford, Glos GL16 7QF
Tel: 01594 833217
Email: mole@grottage.fsworld.co.uk

MENDIP

Regional Council - Council of Southern Caving Clubs (CSCC)

Hon Secretary, Hayley Clark, Hilltop House, Windwhistle Lane, West Grimstead, Salisbury Wiltshire, SP5 3RG. secretary@csc.org.uk

WALES

Regional Council - Cambrian Caving Council (CCC)

Hon Chairman: Bernie Woodley
Email: chair@cambriancavingcouncil.org.uk
Website: www.cambriancavingcouncil.org.uk

Caver Training

It's not every day you hear this among cavers, but Cambrian has some money to spend and need your help. They recently ran a well-received SRT training event and would like to hold another later in the year. In addition to this they are also hoping to sponsor some surveying training during 2010. The content and format of the event can be tailored to suit the attendees and might include: surveying with tape, compass and clinometer - various levels possible from raw beginner to masterclass. Digital surveying - e.g. DistoX and PocketTopo - getting started; making the transition from traditional instruments and turning the measurements into a finished survey.

It would be useful if anyone who might be interested in attending could contact Mike McCombe (secretary@cambriancavingcouncil.org.uk or 01291 652957) so that Cambrian can get a preliminary idea of numbers, dates and topics to cover.

As well as this, Cambrian would love to do more and that may include assisting with club-based events. If your club wants to plan something – within Wales and aimed at caver training or introducing newcomers to caving – Cambrian would like to know if they can help. They'd also like ideas for events they can run themselves. If you have ideas or can help them to spend some money, contact Mike McCombe.

Paul Esser – Porth yr Ogof

On the 13th February 1971 Paul Esser died in a tragic accident whilst diving in the submerged upper section of the Porth yr Ogof system near Ystradfellte. Attempts were made to recover the body over a number of weekends but these were hampered by the weather conditions and the

equipment of the time. As a result it was not possible to recover Paul. Since it was the request of his family that no further lives be put at risk, he has remained in the cave since then. The family recently contacted the South and Mid Wales Cave Rescue Team with regards to the possibility of recovering Paul's remains for burial with his parents. A highly experienced cave diver visited the site where Paul lay and deduced it would now be possible to remove the remains. On the 22nd April 2010, Paul's remains were prepared for removal and later in the evening, when the area was quiet, Paul's remains were discreetly removed from the cave in the presence of a few members of the family. He will now lie in peace with his parents.

Cave Visitor Numbers

Thanks to a combination of information from logbooks and records of trips completed, it has been possible to ascertain the number of cavers and parties to have visited various S. Wales caves in 2009. Shown in league-table format, the positions for 2009 were:

1. OFD – Top	1,727 cavers	477 parties
2. OFD I	599 cavers	135 parties
3. Dan yr Ogof	388 cavers	100 parties
4. Ogof Draenen	352 cavers	117 parties
5. Agen Allwedd	340 cavers	104 parties
6. Cwmdwr	260 cavers	68 parties
7. Daren Cilau	n/k	n/k
8. Craig a Ffynnon	194 cavers	54 parties
9. Otter Hole	161 cavers	36 parties
10. Ogof Cnwcc	102 cavers	27 parties

The South & Mid-Wales Cave Rescue Team

Recently the Gwent Cave Rescue Team decided to dissolve and responsibility for the area – including such extensive systems as: Ogof Draenen, Daren Cilau and Agen Allwedd – passed to West Brecon Cave Rescue Team. Since the Team's area of responsibility now stretches from the Severn Estuary in the East to the Pembrokeshire Coast in the West and as far North as Machynlleth, it was felt the inclusion of West Brecon in the title was now misleading. The committee had previously discussed a range of possible names and having settled on their preferred

choice, proposed to the AGM that the name be formally changed to The South & Mid Wales Cave Rescue Team. The result is the same team, a slightly modified line up, a name that more accurately conveys what they do and also a smart new website at: www.smwrcrt.org.

Ogof Draenen

Many readers will be aware that there have been some difficulties with access to Ogof Draenen, one of the UK's most important caves. The Cambrian newsletter reports that ongoing access has been secured. However, the conditions attached to this are that it is by the original entrance to the cave only and any further attempts to open or otherwise use other entrances to the cave on the land owned by PwllDu Conservation Limited will result in termination of the current access agreement. Cavers are therefore asked to respect the terms of access to the cave.

At the landowners' request the PDCMG have returned to using a key rather than a combination to open the padlock. This means cavers will once again need to apply by post for a key. Letters should be on club-headed note paper and should include a stamped Jiffy type envelope with the address for return and a deposit cheque for £10 made payable to PDCMG (Pwll Ddu Cave Management Group). The cheque will be destroyed on return of key. As Jiffy bags are more than 5mm thick, you will need to use postage for large packages currently 61p per stamp 1st class.

Requests should be sent to:

She Mabbett, PDCMG Permit Secretary, 2 Garth Close, Morganstown, Cardiff CF15 8LF

BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION

**The Old Methodist Chapel
Great Hucklow
Buxton
SK17 8RG**

www.british-caving.org.uk

The Association of Scout Caving Teams

The Association of Scout Caving Teams (ASCT) was formed recently by Idris Williams and his team with the aim of promoting Scout Caving throughout the country. Full membership is available to any Scout Caving Team/Club that is also a BCA member and Associate membership is open to any individual or organisation with an interest in promoting Scout Caving.

The ASCT, which has been admitted to BCA Council as a Constituent Body, hopes to provide a clearinghouse for Leaders seeking help to organise caving for their Scouts and, more importantly, a contact point for Scout Cave Leaders seeking training, assessment or general advice. BCA wish them every success.

They have a new website at;

www.scoutcaving.com

Contact: Idris Williams
idriswilliams@aol.com

BCA's Cave Registry

BCA's National Cave Registry co-ordinator is Dave Cooke (aka Cookie). Its primary aim is to maintain a comprehensive list of all the British sites of interest to cave and mine explorers. The Cambrian Registry is maintained by Brendan Marris and, if you haven't yet taken a look at his website, you really should. It can be found at www.ogof.org.uk and, as if this isn't enough, Brendan is currently working on adding another 500 cave records to the database. As part of this extra fields are also being added to make the Registry compatible with GIS and online mapping such as Google Maps and Open Source mapping from Ordnance Survey. Photos of 450 entrances have also been indexed to be included into the database. Brendan plans for these to be viewable online with the cave records and he also plans to build in an online feedback facility for people to propose revisions and additions to the registry. Congratulations, Brendan, on an excellent job so far!

Grants for Recreational Cavers

For 2010 the Training Committee has a budget of £2,000 to promote "recreational" caver training. It also holds a small stock of equipment that can be loaned for training purposes. The money is distributed through a grant system and as a general rule the grant will not normally exceed 1/3 of the total cost of the event. However the full cost may be granted if the costs are less than £100. There are normally far fewer applications each year than the Training Committee would like and they are encouraging clubs to run events and apply. If the cost of the event is only the hire of an SRT wall, and this comes to less than £100, then you could well receive a full grant.

Full details, together with an application form, can be downloaded from the BCA website or obtained from the Training Officer.

Youth & Development

Back in 2005 Chris Jewell attended his first BCA Council meeting armed with plenty of ideas for ways to rejuvenate caving. As a result the 2006 AGM created the position of Youth & Development Officer for him and gave him a budget. Chris quickly set about putting his ideas into practice and soon created a Try Caving website, flyers, posters and banners. He also wrote to all BCA member clubs to encourage them to adopt his Try Caving initiative. The following year saw Chris organising for BCA to have a stand at the huge Outdoor Show at the Birmingham NEC, with the idea being to encourage outdoor-minded people to consider trying caving. This was so successful that Chris was invited to return in 2008, and also visited the Cliffhanger event in Sheffield.

After four years of sterling work, Chris has decided to hand over the reigns to James Collings. James has a very hard act to follow and would love to have other members' ideas or offers of support. He can be contacted through youth@british-caving.org.uk. BCA would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris Jewell for all his hard work and is pleased to note that he has agreed to take on the new role of BCA's Media-Liaison Officer in 2010. He can be contacted at media@british-caving.org.uk

HIDDEN EARTH 2010

This year the UK's national caving conference and exhibition will be in Staffordshire at Leek High School, in the market town of Leek, on the edge of the Peak District National Park. 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
Rope testing rig		

Admission fees unchanged for six 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**.

Speleo-Olympics: Grab a mate and try the 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, and 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 a complete set of SRT kit to the overall winner. The event will take place at announced times throughout the weekend, in the exhibition area.

Saturday Evening: As in previous years there is a dinner for which you need to book in advance.

After the dinner there will be the usual **Stomp** and **Bar**. The Stomp band, this year, is *Rockaholic*. The **on-site camping** means you won't have to stagger far afterwards.

The BCA Rope Testing Rig, so bring along 2.5m samples of your old SRT ropes and help contribute to this long-standing project.

For full details go to the website at

www.hidden-earth.org.uk



HIDDEN EARTH 2010

24th—26th September
Leek High School, Staffordshire

Offers of lectures and presentations to:
Emma Porter
lectures@hidden-earth.org.uk

BCA Web Services

A fully-featured web hosting and e-mail service for a budget price

A service set up to provide BCA members and caving or mining not-for-profit clubs and organisations with a reliable web hosting service at a reasonable price. The basic service is currently £25 per year and provides 200Mb hosting space (inc. mailboxes), unlimited bandwidth, unlimited email forwarding, unlimited mailboxes, web-mail, spam filtering, MySQL database, FTP access, statistics, password protected areas, mailing lists, PHP, Perl and more.



The service is hosted on a Linux server running Apache. Additional hosting space is priced at £5 per 300Mb or £15 per 1Gb.

Now available is "Fantastico" a one-click installation facility for popular scripts such as forums, galleries and blogs. We can also register domain names.

Please contact us with your requirements or take a look at the Web Services page at: ***british-caving.org.uk***

Your BCA officers:

Chairman	Andy Eavis
Secretary	Damian Weare
Treasurer	Dave Cooke
Membership Administrator	Glenn Jones
Legal & Insurance	David Judson
Conservation & Access	Elsie Little
Equipment & Techniques	Nick Williams
Publications & Information	Les Williams
Youth & Development	James Collings
Training Officer	Graham Mollard
Web Master	Les Williams

Special Offer:

Is this the first time you've received a BCA newsletter? Would you like to receive more, as well as other BCA publications such as Speleology magazine? Would you also like a discount at Hidden Earth?

If this is the first time you have received a BCA Newsletter, than you are probably a Club Individual Member of BCA. This is the lowest cost option that means you don't usually receive publications. We'd like to offer you the chance to upgrade your membership and receive BCA publications for the rest of this year. You can upgrade for only £7.50 using the slip *at the bottom of the page*. As a further bonus, you will then also qualify for £2 off the Hidden Earth weekend, making the real cost of all this year's BCA's publications only £5.50. If you'd like to, you can also join BCRA at the same time and support its excellent charitable work.

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(Slip to Return)

To: Glenn Jones, BCA Membership Administrator, The Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, Buxton SK17 8RG

Name: _____ BCA Membership Number: _____

Yes, I'd like to upgrade my BCA membership for 2010 and receive publications for the rest of the year. I enclose a cheque payable to "BCA" for £7.50

Yes, I'd like to upgrade my BCA membership for 2010 and, while I'm at it, add BCRA membership including online access to *Cave & Karst Science*. I enclose a cheque payable to "BCA" for £13.50

Yes, I'd like to upgrade my BCA membership for 2010 and, while I'm at it, add BCRA membership including paper copies of *Cave & Karst Science*. I enclose a cheque payable to "BCA" for £17.50