



British Caving Association

Minutes of BCA Training Committee held on Monday, 8 June 2009
at Staffordshire Council Staff Club, Stafford

The meeting commenced at 10:05 am.

1. Present

Graham Mollard (GM)	Training Officer
Bob Mehew (RM)	Equipment Officer
Nigel Ball (NB)	Chairman of CIC Panel
Tom Redfern (TR)	ACI Rep
Nigel Atkins (NA)	DCA Training Officer
Juliet Parker-Smith (JPS)	Association of Heads Rep
Steve Higgins (SH)	Joint Services Mtn Trng Wing
Mary Wilde (MW)	Training Administrator

2. Apologies for Absence

Tom Peacock (TP)	Chairman of National Co-ordinating Panel
Idris Williams (IW)	Voluntary Organisation Rep
Chris Binding	

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2008

Section 9 paragraph 4 should read 'It was thought that one of the people involved in the Dow Cave incident was not qualified, but this was not true.'

The minutes were accepted.

MW is to ensure that a depersonalised copy of the minutes is available on the website.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Weather and Flooding Booklet

GM said that the booklet will soon be in its final draft and is to be circulated for comment by the end of July.

4.2 Geology Booklet

No progress to report.

4.3 Level Three

GM said that this issue was going back to panels for discussion. **TR** was concerned that this idea had already been discussed and rejected but was now back on the agenda. He said that compared to the BCU scheme, the BCA scheme is currently fairly simple and that it would not be advantageous for it to 'fall into the complexity trap', particularly as the take up would be low. **NA** said that within the current scheme people may choose to replace ladder and lifeline for group with a rope but this would not be on an official basis. **TR** was concerned that a level three would have the effect of limiting the cave list available to trainers, as for instance, Sell Gill and Tatum Wife could no longer be used. He felt the scheme would become very confusing and it would be better to use the technical advisors to provide for this need.

NB explained that the idea originally came from the Derbyshire Panel but that it had gained its own momentum. He also felt that Level 3 would be available by choice and if it did result in a more limited cave site list then those involved would be aware of this beforehand.

NA felt that SRT with a lifeline is not true SRT but this could be misunderstood, and that candidates should be steered towards CIC instead.

GM pointed out that this type of creative idea does lead to progress and development of the scheme, such as when SRT for Leader was introduced.

TR said that just because something has been requested it is not automatically incumbent upon us to provide it. He added that pitches are currently restricted to 18m but that the length of the pitch is not the issue, getting on and off the rope is where potential problems lie. **TR** also said that it is important to be aware of where the demand has come from. He felt that demand was currently coming from T/A's and we should be finding out if there was actually demand from candidates.

J P-S added that the current scheme is fairly simple but there are still many queries raised about it and adding complexity would exacerbate this problem.

GM summarised and again stated that the issue would be discussed at the panels and only then will a decision be made.

4.4 Child Protection

BM informed the meeting that the wording in the proposal had been accepted at the AG.M. He added that new legislation is being introduced by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), which will mean that the guidance document will have to be reviewed after consultation. He noted that BCA members who work for local authorities would not have to register as that authority already covers them. . Anyone who does less than one or two days training for children within a 30 day period will also be exempt from registration. **BM** pointed out that the arrangements are different in Scotland and trainers should be aware of this.

GM was concerned that this might lead to a greater divide between professional and recreational cavers.

BM added that there might have to be special provision for 'lone' professionals.

GM said that if someone is a CIC they are probably a member of the ACI who should be able to provide advice.

BM is going to copy the relevant emails on this topic to GM, NB and J P-S.

BM summed up and stated that the draft should be ready by October and it will go to the BCA council, and should be accepted at next years AGM.

4.5 Army Scheme Presentation by Steve Higgins.

An agenda item covered this topic later.

J P-S is soon to experience the new scheme in action in Spain and will report back.

4.6 Porth yr Ogof

GM stated that The National Park does not wish to have provisions other than the current warning signs at Porth yr Ogof and that this issue would be dropped at present. He said that a document does exist even if it is not being used. **TP** is preparing site specific advice on generic deep water issues.

BM asked that if the advice is generic, could we demonstrate that other regions have been consulted? **GM** responded that all who were present at the meeting with the National Park were satisfied with the agreement and had not raised objections.

NB said that some time ago he did look at a document from Northern Ireland on the generic topic, which might be useful now. He is to send it to **MW** who will scan it and send it out to members of the NCP and the **TC**.

4.7 LCMLA Core and Group Day Modular.

GM said that there were some differences in level 2 training between Derbyshire and N. Eng regarding how the scheme was run and perhaps we should look at standardisation at least in duration.

TR said that stating a minimum duration for training would be acceptable.

GM said that in the North 'Ladder and Lifeline' and 'SRT for leader' are taught together. **NB** pointed out that the SRT module is not an 'initial' training module.

NB said that personal SRT skills should be a pre-requisite for the SRT module and **TR** agreed but did say that coaching might take place during the module.

J P-S said that double life lining could be dropped and if SRT is being taught on level two training courses this should be adopted throughout the country. **GB** noted that most I2 leaders in the N of Eng do have SRT for leader. He also pointed out that double lifelining would need to be maintained at assessment and training as it was relevant to certain parts of the country.

BM thought that dropping double lifeline for leader might lead to problems in Mendip, as suitable caves may be difficult to find. **TR** thought that at level two a leader should already be competent at personal SRT.

Conclusion. Personal SRT progression for the leader and its problems would be included in all L2 training courses throughout the country from Jan 1020. This was agreed.

4.9 Training Officer and Training Committee Response to Flooding.

GM said there had been no progress. **TR** said that despite this the message is going out on flooding and cited the pictures in the CRO report and examples of how the flooding message is being disseminated.

GM added that the Manchester Hole case is going to court in January.

TR added that HSE has instructed its inspectors to ensure that practical caving elements are covered during inspections.

4.10 Finance

GM said that there is a small buffer in the training budget but not as much as he thought. The Exec has agreed that if there were a shortfall this would be supported.

There was a discussion on why, when the TC had decided not to raise the fees for revalidations, had the topic received further attention. **GM** stated that he had a personal view that the fees should rise and that the issue would no doubt be raised again in the New Year.

4.11 Revalidation

One LCL is still unhappy regarding the possible routes for revalidation but **GM** was adamant that there should be no change. Revalidation of level one is via a workshop or by doing level two. Level Two revalidation is via a workshop or by completing assessment of modules one and two of CIC.

TR pointed out that the handbook needs updating where it states the process for adding new caves. He is to send the details to **GM** for the new edition of the handbook.

5. NCP Report

Not given as **TP** not present.

6. Army Scheme Presentation by Steve Higgins

SH gave an excellent presentation on the old and new military schemes, how the new scheme currently fits with the BCA scheme and how further synergy might be developed in the future. Key differences between the military and BCA schemes were that the military scheme accepts candidates with no previous caving experience and includes an initial proficiency aspect as well as leadership.

7. CIC Report

NB explained the background to the CIC scheme module changes and handed out copies of the CIC panel recommendations, a copy of which is shown as appendix A on these minutes. He stated that the restructuring of the modules would reduce the time in which CIC assessment is completed and it will also improve communications between assessors. There was a discussion on the merits of having a straightforward 'pass/fail' process rather than a 'defer' element. There was a feeling at the meeting that candidates should not provide their own group for assessment purposes, as part of their skills should be the ability to assess the needs of an unfamiliar group.

GM said that as long of the coaching module is of a complex nature the TC are happy with the recommendations.

BM did raise that in the case extenuating circumstances, CIC assessment may have to take place over a longer period, and that the candidate would have to apply for an extension.

The recommendations were accepted. **NB** is to email a copy to **MW** for the minutes.

8. CIC Mines Module

A document describing the new mines module is included in these minutes as Appendix B.

NB explained that this should be a formal assessment rather than simply a logbook check.

The TC agreed to the proposal from **NB** regarding the addition of the mines module to the CIC scheme and also that David Baines and Dena Proctor be mine module specific T/As for this new module. The TC also agreed that these two and **NB** should meet each year to discuss mine related matters and as a consequence **DB** and **DP** need not attend CIC T/A workshops.

9. Emergency Card.

GM explained that the emergency card was ready for production and two quotations had been obtained and the cheapest being about 34p each for a run of 500 encapsulated cards. **MW** said that encapsulation was required rather than lamination as the latter would not be robust if wet. There then followed a discussion about the card and it was the feeling of the meeting that it was too large and also that it should be made more widely available. A larger print run would be more expensive and it was agreed to try and gain funding from bodies such as equipment suppliers.

MW is to reduce the size of the card and send a new draft to **GM**.

NA is to approach various organisations for funding

SH to approach his group for possible funding.

TR will approach Lyon Products for funding.

10. New Trainer Assessors

Adam Evans has been accepted as a L1 and L2 assessor.

NA has been accepted as CIC T/A.

Applications have been received from Lee Paskin and Steve Banks.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 S4B's

GM said that the new S4B's are going to be electronic. This will be in the form of document that will be distributed to the T/A's via email. They will be able either to complete the form electronically, or if they wish, to print it out and complete it by hand. The candidate will only receive a printed and signed version. A copy will be emailed to **MW** who will provide an email receipt to ensure that the form has been sent by a genuine T/A. (this will be a separate email rather than a reply to the T/A's email)

MW is to create a mock up and circulate for comment. She will also create a process document that will explain how they are to be used.

11.2 BCA Training Grants

- Training grant requests have been received by **GM** as follows: -
- Eldon Pothole Club £150
- Elysium £100
- Shepton Mallet Caving Club for training to be provided by Chris binding £168
- DCA for SRT specialist training £100

These requests were granted.

11.3 LCL Theory Document

This has now been circulated. **GM** noted that it was not totally comprehensive but panels could add regional specific terms as appropriate.

11.4 Ripon Caving Hangar

SH said that the hangar is available for use by the BCA but only for non-paying groups. Anyone wishing to use the hangar should contact him.

11.5 Cave Archaeology Leaflet

MW asked if it would be OK to obtain copies of the new Cave Archaeology Leaflet being produced by English Heritage and include one with each registration pack. The meeting felt this would be worthwhile.

11.6 Cave to Mine Transfer Charge.

MW had raised a query regarding an admin charge for cave to mine or mine to cave transfer. Her instruction had been that a £15 charge was payable. However, David Baines had disputed this and cited that fact that in the past no charge had been made. **GM** had discussed this before the meeting with **NB** and agreed that there should **NOT** be a charge.

11.7 CIC Assessment

NB raised the issue that some candidates had been allowed to start their CIC assessment process without his authority. It was agreed that CIC panel members must get his permission before commencing assessment for candidates. The Assessor should receive and examine the candidate's logbook and then gain authority from **NB**. **NB** will email **MW** who will issue the candidate with an S4A logbook page stating that they have the authority of **NB** to commence assessment.

11.8 Agenda Items

GM stated that agenda items for future TC meetings should be sent to him. The next meeting will have an item on 'Teaching, Training and Coaching Concepts'.

11.9 LCMLA Handbook.

GM said that a DVD would replace the old hard copy handbook once the new edition is complete. In the future this DVD could contain other documents such as 'Weil's Disease' and 'Protect Our Caves'. **MW** is getting quotes for the DVDs, which will save much money for the BCA.

TR noted that the handbook download available from the website is very confusing and is made up from several versions. **MW** is to review this and ensure that only the current version is available to download.

12. Dates and place of next meetings

10:00am – Monday, 14 September 2009 Staffordshire Council Social Club, Stafford
10:00am – Tuesday, 8 December 2009 Staffordshire Council Social Club, Stafford
10:00am – Monday 10 May 2010 Staffordshire Council Social Club, Stafford

The meeting closed at 14:10

Appendix A

CIC Module Changes (TO FOLLOW)

Appendix B

CIC Mines Module (TO FOLLOW)