



Annual General Meeting 2020 Agenda

AGM originally scheduled for 14th June 2020: This date was changed due to the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Rescheduled for: Sunday 11th October, via Tele-conferencing 10:30am with an electronic vote on appointments and motions to follow.

Electronic voting is strongly requested. Any member who requires a paper vote should post a request (enclosing an S.A.E) to the BCA Secretary, BCA Registered Office, The Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 8RG for receipt before the 11th Oct 2020 (i.e. the AGM).

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- (1) Welcome from the Chair.
- (2) Apologies for absence and verification of quorum.
- (3) Declaration of items to be covered under Any Other Business.
- (4) Acceptance of minutes from the June 2019 AGM (available on BCA website).

Minor changes to minutes requested by email:

- (a) Add Lyndon Easterbrook to attendee list as voting for ULSA.
- (b) Section 22.1 correct Honorary President to one year term in line with constitution.

- (5) Action items from 2019 AGM **(with update in red where status known)**

Responsibility	Action
ME	Update 2018 AGM minutes with corrections and publish as final. DONE
HJ	Report on progress of instructor insurance to October Council meeting. This is not a BCA issue however HJ is still working with BCA Council and QMC to help facilitate a resolution if possible.
ME/HJ	Table personal accident insurance for discussion at October Council meeting and present budget with and without this. Personal Accident Insurance was ‘shelved’ following mixed opinions and a number of other ways being identified to better spend budget surplus.
ME	Table liability insurance value (i.e. raising to £10m, just for Minera or for entire policy) for discussion at the October Council Meeting. The Minera issue was solved without raising insurance, however, a BMC claim has since set precedent for needing £10 PLI value; BCA Council therefore voted to increase and HJ has identified and implemented a policy.
ME	Table a review of Manual of Operations with respect to procedures for applying for positions and submitting proposals for the October Council meeting. Manual of Operations has been extensively revisited this year and numerous sections updated with approval of all changes from Council.
ME/GD	Update BCA website with policies accepted at this meeting. Done.
ME/GD	Update BCA website with new BCA Council members. Done.
ME/GD	Update Manual of Operations with new Standing Committee terms of reference accepted at this meeting. Done
JA	Progress New to Caving leaflet to production and distribution. Done
GD	Finalise new logo and compile ‘press pack’ for new logo and distribute as quickly as possible and update on website. Done
Everyone	All who use logo anywhere to update to new logo. Mostly achieved.
ME/GD	Update Manual of Operations accordingly for removal of Publications and Information Standing Committee. Done along with other MoO changes.
Exec/DC/ WW/GD	Progress constitutional changes proposed by ME (regarding two house voting) to a ballot of all members. Done; vote conducted and motion passed in both houses. Constitution updated accordingly.

(6) Reports

Executive reports:

- 6.1 Acting Chair (Phil Rowsell)
- 6.2 Acting Secretary (Russell Myers)
- 6.3 Treasurer (Howard Jones)

Insurance and Membership:

- 6.4 Membership Administrator (Wendy Williams)
- 6.5 Insurance Manager (Howard Jones)

Conservation and Access:

- 6.6 Acting Conservation and Access Officer (Will Burns)
- 6.7 CRoW Working Party (David Rose)

Publications and Information:

- 6.8 Publications and Information Officer (Rostam Namaghi)
- 6.9 Newsletter Editor (David Rose)
- 6.10 British Caving Library (Jenny Potts)

Information Technology:

- 6.15 IT Working Party (Ari Cooper Davies)

Training and Qualifications:

- 6.16 Training Officer (Nigel Atkins)
- 6.17 Qualifications Management Committee (Juliet Parker-Smith)

Equipment and Techniques:

- 6.18 Equipment and Techniques Officer (Mark Sims)
- 6.19 Rope Testing (Bob Mehew)

Youth Development and Vision:

- 6.20 Youth and Development Officer (Josh White)
- 6.21 Vision Working Party (Hellie Adams)

Safeguarding and Safety:

- 6.22 Safeguarding (Chris Boardman)
- 6.23 Radon Working Party (Gethin Thomas)

Representatives to other bodies:

- 6.24 UIS Representative (Andy Eavis)
- 6.25 FSE Representative (Ged Campion)

(7) Election of BCA Council Members for vacancies arising in 2020

Roles and Nominations 2020 AGM					
Role (as at 02/08/2020)	Name	Nomination	Proposed	Second	Notes
<u>BCA President</u> <u>12 months</u>	Mick Day	Proposal to remove the position by Tim Allen; Second Jane Allen			
<u>BCA Executive</u>					
Chairman <u>2018 – 2021</u>	Les Williams Resigned	Phil Rowsell	Russell Myers	Howard Jones	Seeking endorsement Tenure 2021
Treasurer 2017-2020	Howard Jones	Howard Jones	Paul Ibberson	Phil Walker	Tenure 2021/2022/2023
Secretary (Acting) 2019 -2022	Matt Ewles resigned	Russell Myers	Paul McWhinney	John Helm	Seeking endorsement Tenure 2021/2022
Equipment and Techniques Officer 2017- 2020	Mark Sims	Current Tenure expired	Currently vacant		Tenure 2021/2022/2023
<u>Individual Member Representatives</u>					
Position 1 - 2019-2021	Phil Rowsell	Incumbent			There are 4 candidates for 2 positions
Position 2 - 2019-2021	Will Burn	Incumbent			
Position 3 - 2018-2020	Andrew McLeod	Andrew McLeod	Ari Cooper-Davies	Jo White	
Position 4 - 2018-2020	Jenny Potts	Jenny Potts	Wayne Sheldon	Mike Higgins	
	Pete Knights	Pete Knights	Jenny Potts	Wayne Sheldon Mike Higgins	
	Martin Hoff	Martin Hoff	Paul Craddy	David Eason	

Election statements:

Election statement of Phil Rowsell standing for BCA Chair

The Vision Of the Chair of the British Caving Association

Recently the BCA has not been in a good place, effectively broken and plagued by infighting resulting in a septic atmosphere. As a result, in the last 4 months, 6 council members (two from the Executive) have resigned. This has left the BCA crippled and barely functioning, and a laughing stock to our members, whose only benefit, is as a method to get caving insurance. To make matters worse, our world has been turned upside down by Covid-19, which has only served to exacerbate the problem.

As a result, I thought it necessary that I step up to the plate and get involved to try and move the BCA forward for the good of British Caving. I was recently ratified by BCA Council with an overwhelming mandate by Council Members. I was both honoured and humbled by this, and the respect and trust Council Members have bestowed on me. I hope too, the membership will also reflect this.

My goal is to turn the BCA around to be a powerful National Body, promoting caving and one valued by its members, dispelling the myth that BCA is only full of infighting and merely about insurance.

My Vision

Short term: The most important thing to do is to get the BCA functioning properly;

We need to create a culture whereby we conduct our business in a respectful manor, trying to understand others point of views etc, so that in disputes compromise can be reached. We need to clear the backlog, pickup the balls that have been dropped. We have moved to regular shorter (2 hour) Council Zoom meetings with targeted agendas rather than the all day epics of the past. Our Work Groups/Committees will be expected to present their work at times to Council, to ensure they are functioning and heading in a direction that the BCA believe is correct.

Probably the most important task is that BCA needs a website fit for a prestigious national body, with a back end functionality for BCA to engage with its members and vice versa. Our Constitution and Manual of Operations is out of date and ambiguous. Changes are occurring in a piecemeal fashion, exacerbating the problem, so a new working group will be formed to review and re-write them for presentation at the 2021 BCA AGM.

Medium & Long term:

Our sport is dying, we are losing cavers to other sports through events like foot and mouth and now Covid -19 but also due to the lack of proactivity by the BCA. Our demographics are heavily stacked to an aging population. If we are not careful, our sport we love will die. This I think will be a great travesty.

To prevent this, we need to give our full support to the Y&D working group, the Scouts, the Universities via CHECC and our Caving Clubs to encourage and nurture as many new cavers into our sport as possible. Through the Conservation and Access Working Group, while conserving our caves, we need to make access easy and open for all. The comment "We need a cohesive joined up approach" rings home to the core, in that we have been so focused on infighting that we have

forgotten the bigger picture.

We need to educate our cavers better in all aspects of our sport; caving techniques, rescue, expeditions and science. The BCA Training Committee and QMC (Qualifications Management Committee) are the foundation blocks to provide great training to our cavers. The recent Thai rescue has shown the world how good BCRC and cavers are. British Expeditions (assisted by GPF) are renowned and revered around the world. BCRA is doing some great science, which with improved funding for BCRA workshops and research projects, we can show cavers how interesting and important cave science actually is.

Finally, the BCA need to start looking out for issues that are on or coming over the horizon, so that we can influence government decisions at an early stage rather than having to live with the consequences.

In summarising, there is an awful lot to do. We are all volunteers giving up as much of our precious time as each sees fit. By pulling together, encouraging more of our membership (particularly the young) to be involved in the BCA, we can make the changes.

My door is always open. I hope people will come and air their grievances, ideas etc. I hope the membership will tell me what BCA is not doing correctly, what we should be doing and perhaps with time, what BCA is doing correctly ;-)

I hope you will work with me (and the BCA Council), to move forward, in the knowledge we are trying to do our best for British Caving, for the good of the BCA rather than its destruction, to build that National Association members are proud of and value and thereby ensuring that our sport grows in time rather than dies.

My thanks and dedication

Phil Rowsell

Election statement of Russell Myers Standing for BCA Secretary

First and fore most I must state that I am a dyed in the wool caver having discovered caving at 16 years old on a trip down Bar Pot into Gaping Gill with the Craven Pothole Club. Memories of that trip have stayed with me ever since and triggered a lifelong love for adventure and caving in particular. I joined the Craven Pothole Club shortly after that first trip and have remained a member ever since.

During this time, I have caved in most regions of the UK and occasionally ventured further afield to Ireland and the Continent and would consider myself a competent experienced, caver albeit finding that these days, the caves appear to be shrinking. In addition to caving, I have also rock climbed and mountaineered in both the UK and abroad and have an abiding love for the Isle of Skye and Scottish mountains in general.

I have lived my life on the basis of putting more back in than I take out of whatever activity that may be, including work and play. I was elected to the Craven Pothole Club Committee in 1974, served in various positions until 2002 including Assistant Secretary, Secretary, Chairman and was honoured to be elected President in 2012. These roles invariably involved administrative duties and over the course of time, I have developed working computer skills to augment them.

I cannot remember the dates but I acted as CPC representative to the Council of Northern Caving

Clubs and served as its Chairman during the 1990s. I also represented the CNCC at the NCA for a number of years prior to it evolving in to the BCA

I am widowed, retired from full time work and have worked in local government and latterly the private sector as a health and safety consultant. I find myself time rich and pleased to be able to offer my skills to the BCA as Secretary for the organisation.

Russell Myers

13th April 2020

Election statement of Martin Hoff standing for Individual Representative:

I've been going to the Hidden Earth conference since it was the BCRA conference but I'd never been to a BCA AGM till 2019, when I attended because I was concerned by some things I was hearing and wanted to get my own perspective with my own eyes and ears rather than have things filtered through anyone else's views first.

BCA members may have seen my underground photos in the BCA Newsletter or in the Hidden Earth photo salon, they may have occasionally spotted my photos or read some of my words in Descent or sat through the one lecture I have given at Hidden Earth. There are a number of foreign trip reports which have carried my contributions in various forms, some of those trips benefiting from the Ghar Parau Foundation's generous support.

I have been caving for nearly thirty years, been a member of my local cave rescue team for most of that, belonging to only three different caving clubs in all that time though I cave with members of many different clubs. I have some familiarity with caving club committees and access bodies so I'm aware of the potential upside if the BCA decides it can do without me on this occasion!

To date I have been underground in a dozen countries on four continents and you'll usually find me caving in south Wales, where I have managed 16 caving or digging trips in 2020 despite the Covid-19 travel restrictions - it's not a competition but this is a clue that I'm a caver with an interest in related issues rather than a meeting collector.

If there's room for a fresh face on Council as an Individual Rep, it's probably about time I took a greater interest in what's going on.

Martin Hoff, July 2020

Election statement of Pete Knights Standing for Individual Representative:

Pete Knight BCA Member 9362

pete@peakinstruction.com

Born 1982 Caving since 2001 Main region Derbyshire & North Wales. Often in the Dales too.

Background Holder of the BCA Cave Instructor Certificate since 2010 and a Trainer/Assessor for the LCMLA scheme and probationary T/A for the CIC (mines) scheme.

I run a small outdoor pursuits company in the Peak area. I work underground all across the UK. Technical advisor for caving and mine exploration to a number of different UK firms. Also work at Spanset as a height safety trainer.

Founder and Chairman of the Darkside Caving & Mining Club (since 2008)

Member of the TSG, YSS, CATMHS and PDMHS

Team Leader in Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation

Chairman (about to stand down) of the Peak Instructed Caving Affiliation (since March 2015)

Projects Officer for the Derbyshire Caving Association (since March 2014)

Former Association of Caving Instructors rep to NCP (now QMC) (c2015/16)

Short statement

I put myself forward for this post as a candidate that has roots in all aspects of caving but who has spent the bulk of their time as an individual caver, rather than a club member. I have lived in a number of caving regions around the UK and feel I have an understanding of local issues, but my focus will be fixed on what is best for UK cavers and mine explorers as a whole. Despite the list of caving bodies and organisations I belong to, I'm not a cave politician! I am far more comfortable making mine shafts safe for DCA than I am making policy, but I think it is that attitude that sees the BCA short on volunteers. So with that in mind, I wish to do my part as an active caver and support BCA with my time. I would be keen to see a modernising BCA emerge to proudly sit alongside organisations like the BMC and British Canoeing as a representative of its members' interests at national and local level.

Election statement of Andrew McLeod standing for Individual Representative:

I am applying to stand again as an Individual Member Representative of the BCA, having just completed a 2-year post. I have attended all but one of the BCA Council meetings during my tenure. I have stood previously on a caving club committee and I am the Dachstein expedition treasurer. As well as expedition caving, I also have an interest in cave science and I am a BCRA member, have attended several of their field meetings and am keen to further support the BCRA at BCA Council.

As a Welsh caver who started caving while living in Devon, mostly caved in the Mendips, and now live in Yorkshire, I have in my brief caving career covered many regions of British caving and think of myself only as a British caver. Similarly, although I am a member of four clubs (EUSS, BEC, YSS and SWCC) I am a direct individual member of the BCA. I have always tried to bring this region-agnostic view to often fractious BCA Council meetings.

I would nonetheless consider myself a progressive member seeking to improve the relationship between the BCA and individual cavers, and it is through this that I hope to again represent individual members, and to bring to attention to Council the issues that affect everyday cavers who are trying to carry out their sport and science of caving. For this reason I joined the BCA Vision group seeking to develop a brighter future for BCA, which will (coronavirus permitting) produce a report at a subsequent AGM.

Election statement of Jenny Potts standing for Individual Representative

Joined Derbyshire-based Orpheus Caving Club in 1965 and have caved with the club all over the UK and Ireland as well as abroad in Europe, the USA and Canada. Club visits to Arctic Norway in the 1960s, '70s and '80s where I was involved in discovery and surveying of new caves. Posts held within my Club: Librarian, Newsletter Editor, Bulletin Editor; currently Cottage Booking Secretary, Chairman and Honorary Member.

Also a currently member of South Wales C. C. and for several years a member of Shepton Mallet C. C.

DCA Secretary and also Treasurer for periods from 1968 onwards, stood down in 2018 and was elected an Honorary Member. Currently handling DCA publications sales. Served as DCA representative on NCA and BCA Councils until 2020.

1st. Secretary of NCA from 1970 to 1975 and have also acted as temporary Secretary of BCA on a couple of occasions when the elected secretary had to drop out. Editor of NCA Newsletter SpeleoScene from 1993 to 2004. Member of the group of individual cavers who organised a 1992 survey and ballot of a selection of 3000 cavers; this eventually led to the introduction of Club Membership for NCA, as opposed to it being just a federation of regional councils and constituent bodies. This in turn led to the transformation of NCA into BCA with its individual membership system.

As DCA representative on BCA Council, in 2013 I proposed BCA investigate the subject of access to caves as part of the CRoW Act, becoming the first leader of the BCA CRoW Working Party. This led to the eventual ballot of all BCA members which confirmed BCA's position in favour of CRoW applying to access to caves.

Individual Member of BCRA Council for a number of years; helped to set up the British Caving Library in 2008 and became responsible for its organisation and running on behalf of BCRA/BCA in 2009.

I am a supporter of the continuing evolution of BCA into a national body that all British cavers can be proud to be a part of.

Jenny Potts, 29/8/20

(8) Proposals to BCA AGM 2020

a) Constitutional & Manual of Operations changes

Proposal 1: Total rewrite of Section 3 (Aims) of the constitution as follows (Proposed: Tim Allen, Seconded: Jane Allen)

- 3.1. To represent and act as a national spokesperson and point of contact for caving in the United Kingdom.
- 3.2. To disseminate relevant information to cavers nationally.
- 3.3. To provide a membership system and associated democratic platform for caving matters of national significance.
- 3.4. To remain responsive to the needs and wishes of our Members.
- 3.5. To support or implement appropriate initiatives involving but not limited to cave conservation, access, science, training, equipment and welfare.
- 3.6. To encourage responsible participation in caving, emphasising that this must go together with training, conservation and education to ensure a safe and sustainable future.
- 3.7. To challenge and eliminate barriers to participation in caving.

Proposal 2: Total rewrite of Section 4 (Guiding Principles) of the constitution as follows: (Proposed: Tim Allen, Seconded: Jane Allen)

- 4.1. Caving is an outdoor activity that promotes a healthy lifestyle with accompanying social and mental enrichment for many participants.
- 4.2. Caving should be embraced as a multi-faceted activity spanning exploration, science, technology, arts, sport, and conservation, all of which are valued.
- 4.3. Caving bodies who facilitate or manage access have a responsibility to make all possible effort to minimise the number of restrictions, to ensure that access is freely available to all cavers and to prevent discrimination in access availability.
- 4.3. The Association should foster a culture of respect with a zero-tolerance attitude to discrimination including on grounds of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, creed, colour, occupation, religion or political opinion.

Proposal 3: Removal of Honorary Membership and Honorary President (Proposed: Tim Allen, Seconded: Jane Allen)

These roles serve no purpose (we have no honorary members, and the honorary president role is purely symbolic). The following constitutional changes should be made:

- 5.1d: Remove honorary membership (and update 'e' to remove mention of 'd')
- 5.6: Remove
- 6.15: Remove

8.12: Remove (a) as without honorary membership, there are no other memberships which are considered by an Annual General Meeting.

Proposal 4: Remove constitutional limitations on logo usage (Proposed: Tim Allen, Seconded: Jane Allen)

Delete constitution section 10.5.

This is outdated and unnecessarily restrictive. Suggest that the Manual of Operations can include a section on logo usage to better reflect current practice and to empower Council Officers to use appropriate judgement. This does not need to be a constitutional matter.

Proposal 5: Constitutional changes to simplify acceptance of Group members (Proposed: Tim Allen, Seconded: Jane Allen)

Currently the constitution (section 5.2) enables our membership administrator to accept new Individual Members who are eligible, without input from BCA Council (thank goodness). New Group Members still need to be voted upon by Council. Providing that Group Member meets the eligibility criteria, it would be unprecedented, and also unacceptable, to reject them. Furthermore, as Group Members no longer have a vote at General Meetings there seems less need than ever before for Council to 'vet' them. I propose that new Group Members, as per Individual Members, should be accepted by the membership administrator providing they meet all acceptance criteria, thus avoiding delays in getting them joined and reducing bureaucracy.

Furthermore, the constitution does not need to say membership applications will involve an 'application form' (this is likely to be debatable wording if we move to automatic renewal/direct debit in future) and does not need to say the application should include the subscription fee, as this prevents electronic payment after the application has been accepted and constrains processes too much. Therefore, the current constitutional wording is likely to become defunct.

I propose section 5.2 of the constitution should be amended to read:

"All membership applications shall be made in accordance with current practices and be considered by a duly delegated person or persons agreed by National Council. This person or persons may accept membership on behalf of National Council providing eligibility criteria are met or they may defer to National Council for further consideration if they feel this necessary."

Concurrently, sections 5.3 and 5.4 and should be deleted, section 5.5 terminated after 'representation' and the final sentence of 9.1 deleted.

Proposal 6: Simplify constitutional processes and procedures for terms of office. (Proposed: Tim Allen, Seconded: Jane Allen)

Currently we have a tricky situation where each Officer 'role' has a three year term of office, but if the person elected to that role leaves and a replacement is elected, the replacement can only serve for the remaining term of the 'role'. This was intended to ensure approximately 1/3 of all Officer positions come up for election at each AGM (constitution section 6.1). However, this section of the constitution also says that each Officer (implying an individual) shall serve for three years, so there is a contradiction. At this AGM for example, the Treasurer position is up for election, even though our current Treasurer, Howard was only first elected last AGM. This is because he was only elected to

finish the final year of a three-year term. Not only is this extremely confusing to keep track of (our current Secretary missed this), but it means not all Officers are elected on equal terms or office. I suggest that when a new individual is elected to a role, they serve for three years, and that it is the Officer individual and not the 'role' that has a three-year term. **I propose that this is very easily achieved by deleting the final sentence of constitution section 6.1.**

Proposal 7: Removal of unnecessary wording from the constitution (Proposed: Tim Allen, Seconded: Jane Allen)

Sections 12.3 and 12.4; delete these. These kinds of wording have no place in a constitution.

Proposal 8: Consideration a new form of words for section 10.1 of the BCA constitution to be presented at BCA 2021 AGM (Proposed: Tim Allen, Seconded: Jane Allen)

Section 10 of the BCA constitution deals with 'limitations' and is outdated for a modernising national organisation. Section 10.1 states, "The Association shall not interfere in the affairs of a Member unless specifically requested to do so by that Member. The Association shall not mediate between Members unless requested by them in writing to do so." This wording requires reform.

Section 10.1 limits the effectiveness of the BCA as a national body in properly representing cavers. It can be used (and has been) to prevent the BCA investigating complaints, undertaking research into national policy issues and intervening in matters which are detrimental to the image of caving nationally. Even if BCA is funding a group or a scheme it cannot intervene unless invited to do so. This cannot be right. However, there is a value in member organisations having a degree of autonomy. Therefore a form of words are needed to maintain some member autonomy whilst allowing the BCA to properly act as a national body.

This motion instructs council to consider a new form of words for section 10.1 of the BCA constitution taking into account the above and to agree those words at council by majority vote in time to present them as a constitutional change to the 2021 BCA AGM.

b) Membership

Proposal 9: Total overhaul of BCA membership (Proposed: Tim Allen, Seconded: Jane Allen)

Since the start, the BCA has had Group Members and Individual Members, with two classes of Individual Members depending on whether individuals source their BCA membership via their club or directly (CIMs vs DIMs). Most of our Individual Members are members of clubs, and therefore choose to get their BCA membership as a CIM. The concept here is fine, but this means that these members have no direct interaction with the BCA. This creates GDPR challenges, because it means BCA hold data on members with no way of ensuring that data was given to us with proper consent. These issues did not exist when the BCA was founded in 2004. This is also the reason BCA still do not hold email addresses for >2000 of their Individual Members (which is becoming a bigger issue with each passing year), and also why so many cavers don't even know they are BCA members.

If the BCA were set up from scratch, there would certainly only be Direct Individual Membership. The concept of having a second class of Individual Membership which is administered via a third-party organisation (i.e. a club) would seem an unusual choice by today's standards.

Current BCA infrastructure would not allow CIM membership to be abolished. The administrative burden on the Membership Administrator using current antiquated databases and systems would be huge. Cavers nationally would have to join the BCA themselves, rather than their club doing all the work; so that joining process would need addressing to make this a palatable process. Furthermore, as it is currently a requirement of Group Membership that all members of that group be Individual BCA members; this would be harder to verify if all BCA members joined directly rather than the majority through the club.

It seems likely that the necessary progression towards a more modern membership system is always going to be hampered by the above issues. Therefore, it is about time that the BCA started looking into addressing these issues by undertaking a complete overhaul of its membership systems, to create a situation where scrapping of CIM membership becomes viable.

This will require a total overhaul of BCA's membership systems to make them very easy to use (e.g. simple online forms and electronic payment options), with the option for automatic renewal and direct debit so members do not, if they choose, have to go through the process every year other than perhaps an annual reverification of details and any necessary GDPR compliance steps.

The membership database would need to be a live document linked directly to the membership and payment processes, so that the system is automated and most membership renewals do not require input from the Membership Administrator. Furthermore, such a system could automatically check Group Membership applications to verify everyone in that club is an Individual Member and flag any who are not. Finally, there would need to be a member login section, ideally built into the website, where members can update their details and preferences and changes are made to the membership database automatically without manual intervention. Such a member interaction interface could also be used to facilitate member ballots after each AGM.

Note that these are the exact systems Gary Douthwaite was planning to develop until he and our Secretary were hounded out of their positions.

Finally, the sending out of physical membership cards would have to stop if all Individual Members joined directly to avoid a significant workload and cost of posting these out (currently they get bulk posted to club Secretaries). They could be replaced with an automatically generated membership confirmation certificate which can be emailed out (again, automatically) when payment is made, or available to download when a member logs into the website. Anyway, in this day of reducing plastic waste, I can't think of anything better than abolishing 6500 plastic cards each year!

I propose that BCA Council start work so that the BCA's membership systems and infrastructure are overhauled by the time of the 2022 Annual General Meeting, such that discontinuation of the CIM membership category, if desired, would not present any significant issues.

This work will need to ensure the above challenges are addressed and that the appropriate systems are implemented along the lines of the suggestions above. It is understood that this may require significant investment in membership software or electronic payment systems, and maybe even employment or contracting of the services of an IT professional, if enough voluntary resource with adequate skills to make this happen cannot be found. Use of off-the-shelf systems can be considered but paying for development of bespoke systems should also be an option.

The BCA has the money to invest in such things if necessary; we are quite unique for an organisation of our size to have so few paid roles or services.

This proposal is not to scrap CIM Membership; but simply to get the BCA into a position where it could scrap CIM Membership without negative consequences (a position that would undoubtedly benefit the BCA regardless of whether a decision is then taken to actually scrap CIM membership... having more modern membership systems would be a benefit regardless).

A plan for how this is to be implemented should be presented to the 2021 AGM for approval and the changes implemented by the 2022 AGM.

Proposal 10: Simplification of the BCA membership (**Proposed:** Rostam Namaghi , **Seconded:** Will Burn)

Proposal to simplify the BCA membership by eliminating the two class membership structure (Direct and Club), with everyone just becoming a 'member of the BCA'.

This is being proposed as they have been fixed at one price and would make both database administration easier and allow us to contact our members directly rather than put the unnecessary workload on club secretaries.

c) Voting

Proposal 12: The BCA National Council shall specify named individuals responsible for running any ballot required by the Constitution (**Proposed:** CSCC)

Proposal: Add to the BCA Constitution: 8.15 The BCA National Council shall specify named individuals responsible for running any ballot required by the Constitution. Those individuals shall not be BCA Council members. Reason: Any ballots run by the BCA need to be beyond criticism. As such, no Council member should be involved in the running the ballot. I.e. neither the distribution nor collection of ballot papers nor the counting of votes. The ballot would be run by trusted individuals appointed by Council but who are not members of Council.

Proposal 13: Voting Proposal for the AGM (**Proposed:** Rostam Namaghi , **Seconded:** Phil Rowsell)

Proposal: I would like to propose that the BCA clarifies its voting system for elections. This only requires changes to the manual of operations and does not need constitutional amendments. Though this can be done at a council meeting, it is important that we establish a precedent that voting systems should only be altered at general meetings.

1. Plurality Voting: Members have one vote which they can allocate to one candidate, and the candidate with the largest number of votes wins.

It requires the following changes (highlighted in bold) to the manual of operations:

*'For contested positions or multi-choice option motions, the candidate or option with the most support will be **elected/accepted**. For candidate elections each member can cast one vote for their preferred candidate. For multiple vacancies of the same position the candidates with the largest shares of the vote are elected.'*

Proposal 14: Election Statements: clear light touch regulation of statements (**Proposed:** Rostam Namaghi , **Seconded:** Phil Rowsell)

Candidates are afforded the opportunity to include a statement. I would suggest that these statements be on the website rather than the voting portal, and that the Secretary or Chair be responsible for moderating them. This is to be a very light touch affair as detailed in the proposed change to the MoO below (to be included immediately after the reference to the statement):

'Statements are to be moderated by the Secretary/Chair or nominated third party (but not for their own position, or a position they are running for) and only on the grounds of public decency, defamation, relevance or falsehood.'

This is only included as currently there is nothing to stop someone contesting the position and using it as a free advert to our members, a platform to slander people or simply list every profanity in the dictionary.

Proposal 15: Uncontested Elections: Allow opposition to unfavourable candidates by reopening nominations. (**Proposed:** Rostam Namaghi , **Seconded:** Will Burn)

The constitution states that 'uncontested candidates' for Council position 'will be elected'. This wording was based on the pre-2019 status quo of appointing unopposed candidates without a vote. This should therefore be the default interpretation.

AGM's are the final arbiter of the constitution and at the 2019 AGM the will of the AGM was to require election of all candidates. Therefore, this is the last interpretation and action would be required to change it back to the 'status quo'. For the sake of procedural speed at meetings I propose that this be amended to:

'The constitution states that 'uncontested candidates' for Council position 'will be elected'. They will be elected by default unless an objection at an AGM requires a vote be held. The options will be For/Against/Abstain – if the candidate is not elected, the post is reopened for nominations and vote to occur at a later date.'

I would recommend voting on the 'uncontested candidates' proposal as it does not reflect the will of the last AGM and would require a motion at an AGM to implement. Therefore it is easier to modify it to the current position.

d) Other

Proposal 16: All software whether bespoke or purchased commercially is properly licensed and registered to the British Caving Association (**Proposed:** CSCC)

Proposal: That the BCA National Council be instructed to ensure that all software whether bespoke or purchased commercially is properly licensed and registered to the British Caving Association.
Reason: There is a concern is that in the absence of a license that BCA could lose the right to use

particular software possibly at short notice. This is particularly important with the mission critical software. It is likely to be costly and difficult, if not impossible, to replace at short notice.

Proposal 17: BCA National Council produces an appropriate Social Media Policy **(Proposed: CSCC)**

Proposal: That the BCA National Council produces an appropriate Social Media Policy. To be completed by the 2021 AGM. Reason: That in this age of increasing use of social media, BCA has an active Facebook page, it is increasingly important that the association has a social media policy. The policy should help to protect BCA's reputation and give clear guidance to its volunteers and staff. critical software. It is likely to be costly and difficult, if not impossible, to replace at short notice.

Proposal 18: Social media policy (Proposed: Tim Allen, Seconded: Jane Allen)

Should BCA develop a social media policy it shall have transparency and communication to cavers at its heart. It should not be designed to prevent council members from speaking out, nor should it limit in anyway the ability of council representatives to communicate with their own organisations and members.

(9) Appointment of 'suitably qualified person' to certify BCA accounts

Agenda item required in accordance with section 9.7 of the constitution. A Gott (TSG Treasurer) and P Ibberson (GPF Treasurer) are proposed as they have reviewed BCA accounts recently and so have the experience and skill set required.

(10) Any other business