

BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Inaugural Special General Meeting, held at the Baptist Church Hall, Alvechurch, 20 March 2004.

The meeting started at 14.15.

Present:

Mick Day (MD) Chairman
Bob Mehew (BM) Treasurer
Eddy Hill (EH) Secretary
Steve Holding (SH) NAMHO¹ & Recorder
Nick Williams (NW) BCA Insurance Manager
Elsie Little (EL) Conservation & Access Chairman²
Dave Judson (DJ) BCRA¹ and Legal & Insurance Chairman²
Sue Mabbett (SM) CCC¹
Glenn Jones (GJ) CNCC¹
David Cooke (DC) CSCC¹
Jenny Potts (JP) DCA¹
Andrew Pryke (AP) DCUC¹ and Equipment Chairman²
Alan Finch (AF) WPCST¹
Simon Froude (SF) Bradford PC¹
Mike Scratcher (MS) Craven PC¹
Owen Clarke (OC) Cwmbran CC¹
Maurice Febry (MF) FODCC&AG¹
Chris Broome (CB) Masson Caving Group¹
Boyd Potts (BP) Orpheus CC¹
Jacqui Marshall (JM) University of Bristol SS¹
Les Williams (LW) Wessex Cave Club¹ and Publications & Information
Chairman²
Idris Williams (IW) Training Chairman²
Clarke Friend (CF) Radon Working Group Convenor²
Jonathon Roberts Observer³
Robert Scott Observer³
Dave Webb Observer³
David Jean Observer³

1. Recognised as member reps. after acceptance of item 3a.
2. Individuals in post after decision in item 5.
3. Many present will also be individual members via membership of clubs/groups recognised after acceptance of item 3a.

1. Chairman's welcome: Introduction and procedures

MD welcomed everybody to what he considered to be a momentous meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from:

Bob Dearman

Les Sykes

3. Applications for Membership

3a. Consider applications for membership

A list of Group, Associate and Direct Individual Members was circulated at the meeting. The list was amended to reflect the fact that several Group members had not yet paid the publication element of the subscription. The amended list is attached to these minutes, see Annex 1. It was agreed that the list of Group members was split into those who were constitutionally established (i.e. a copy of their constitution had been inspected and those who had yet to do so, i.e. those so designated as "provisional members" as per Clause 14.6 of the Constitution. Provisional members would therefore need to submit their constitutions to the BCA Secretary to confirm their membership of BCA. A further list of all Club Individual Members was available at the meeting on a computer. (NB An output is only attached to the set of minutes kept for the record, see Annex 2. It is known to contain duplications. Copies will be supplied upon request to B Mehew.)

Proposed by BM and seconded by EH and agreed.

3b. Consider appeals against determination of membership or exclusion

None were raised.

4. Report on BCA Insurance progress

Details of the income to date were tabled. Income was currently around two-thirds of the budget but significant additional income was still expected. It was reported that a 'special arrangement' was being negotiated with the large membership of Subterranea Britannica. The activities of this group were considered to be such as to pose limited risk of a claim arising for the scheme. Such an arrangement was agreed subject to those Subterranean Britannica members paying a lower rate not being entitled to a BCA vote. In answer to a question, it was noted that progress was such that there were real hopes of being able to continue with the scheme next year. The intention of generating a surplus in 2004, to cover any excess payment, should make future provision of insurance more attractive next year. It was noted that the initial BCA Executive had already agreed that the insurance covered the activities of NCA, BCRA and BCA. Insurance cover for other various constitutionally established bodies was considered by the meeting. It was agreed that free cover would be offered to the activities of all constitutionally established Nation Bodies (BCRA, CDG, CHECC, NAMHO and WPCST) constitutionally established Regional Caving Councils (CCC, CNCC, CSCC, DCA and DCUC) and Cave Rescue Organisations (BCRC and all affiliated cave rescue organisations). It was specifically agreed that ACI would not

be offered cover as it was considered to have requirements outside the scope of the BCA insurance. It was also agreed that these bodies would still be expected to pay the Access Control Body fee, if they wished to include this activity.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported on various items requiring action (see Annex 1). Specific items were put to the meeting:

"That the Chairman of BCA is authorised to sign the agreement with BCRA and NCA over the (insurance) guarantees" was proposed by BM, seconded by JP and agreed.

That "BCA Council is instructed to hold conjoint meetings of its Council and all of its committees and other groups with NCA and permit the records of those conjoint meetings to be made in the name of BCA" was proposed by BM, seconded by JP and agreed.

5. Elect such officers and Chairmen of Standing Committees as may be required

It was proposed by JP, seconded by LW and agreed that all officers and chairmen of standing committees etc, already in post for NCA fill the same role for BCA.

6. Discuss and confirm matters of policy of the Association for postal ballot and to direct the National Council on such matters.

No items identified.

7. Agree date and venue of the next General Meeting of the Association

It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting would be held on 12 March 2005, at Alvechurch, starting at 10.30am. This date would require holding a National Council meeting on 08 January 2005.

8. Any other business

A vote of thanks was proposed by LW and agreed for the effort placed by everybody who had contributed to progressing BCA to this point.

The meeting was closed at 15.50.

NB Annexes 1 and 2 have been omitted from this public record following the objection of one member.