



## Minutes of BCA Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 11 June 2017 at the Rotary Centre, Castleton

### Attendees

#### Individuals

Individual Name		Club
Andy Eavis	AE	(Chair + UIS Representative BCA)
Simon Brooks	SB	(Secretary BCA)
Robin Weare	RW	Hades CC (Treasurer + Newsletter Officer BCA)
William Burn	WB	SUSS
Bob Mehew	BM	(Legal & Insurance + Rope Test + Child Protection Officer BCA)
Andrew McLeod	AM	EUSS (Exeter)
Alan Butcher	AB	CSCC
Nigel Ball	NB	(Training Officer BCA)
Graham Mollard	GM	(Chair QMC BCA)
Stephen Natynczuk	SN	ACI
Alastair Gott	AG	Technical Speleological Group
Andrew Hinde	AH	(Conservation & Access Officer BCA)
Tony Radmall	TR	WSCC
Dave Tyson	DT	WCG
Ged Campion	GC	YRC (FSE Representative BCA)
Rob Middleton	RM	SUSS/CDE/BPC
Helen Fairclough	HF	SUSS
David Botcherby	DB	SUSS
Corin Donne	CP	MUSC
Dick Willis	DW	
Michael Woodward	MWo	SUSS
Tommy Moone	TM	SUSS
Alexander Reid	ARi	NUCC
Jacob Puhalo-Smith	JPS	NUCC
Leo Bradley	LB	SUSS
Antonia Headlam Mory	AHM	SUSS
Adam Russell	ARu	ANMHS
Rostam Namaghi	RN	SUSS / (Youth & Development Officer BCA)

Nat Greenwood	NG	SUSS
Michael Holliday	MH	SUSS
Rob Eavis	RE	ELDON
Liam Overett	LO	SUSS
Lydia Leather	LL	NUCC
Mark Wright	MWr	BBPC
Mark Richardson	MR	BBPC
L Williams	LW	WCC / (Publications and Information Officer BCA)
Lyndon Easterbrook	LE	ULSA
Stuart France	SF	
Dave Cooke	DC	(Webmaster + Web Services + Cave Registry Coordinator + IT Working Party BCA)
Idris Williams	IW	
Tim Allen	TA	(CRoW Liaison Officer BCA)
Jenny Potts	JP	(British Caving Library Representative BCA)
Steve Holding	SH	
Thom Starnes	TS	

*(Post Meeting Note - 3 other members were present but did not sign in. Voting was conducted by counting a show of membership cards.)*

#### Groups

Group Name		Represented by	
Buttered Badger Potholing Club	BBPC	Mark Richardson	MR
Cambrian Caving Council		Stuart France	SF
Cheddar Caving Club		Dave Cooke	DC
Council for Higher Education Caving Clubs	CHECC	Thom Starnes	TS
Council Northern Caving Clubs		Tim Allen	TA
Council Southern Caving Clubs	CSCC	Alan Butcher	AB
Derbyshire Caving Association	DCA	Jenny Potts	JP
Eldon Pothole Club		Rob Eavis	RE
Exeter University Speleological Society	EUSS (Exeter)	Andrew McLeod	AM
Hades Caving Club	Hades CC	Robin Weare	RW
Manchester University Speleology Club	MUSC	Corin Donne	CP
National Association of Mining History Organisations		Steve Holding	SH
Nottingham University Caving Club	NUCC	Lydia Leather	LL
Sheffield University Speleological Society	SUSS	David Botcherby	DB
Shropshire Scouts Caving Team		Idris Williams	IW
Technical Speleological Group		Alastair Gott	AG
University of Leeds Speleological Association	ULSA	Lyndon Easterbrook	LE
Wessex Cave Club	WCC	L Williams	LW
West Sussex Cave Club	WSCC	Tony Radmall	TR
Wirral Caving Group	WCG	Dave Tyson	DT

The meeting opened at 10:36

## **1. Chairman's Welcome**

AE welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave thanks for the voluntary work everyone does. He noted that the meeting was quorate.

BM raised a Point of Order. He noted that several versions of the agenda and constitutional amendments paper had been issued. He wondered if the meeting has been properly called and asked if anyone had such an objection. His concern was that someone might challenge this point later in the meeting so wished it be dealt with at the start. No one raised an objection.

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Richard Vooght, Alan Finch, David Jean, Hellie Adams, John Hine, David Gibson, Nick Williams, Pete Hall, Bernie Woodley, Boyd Potts, Faye Litherland, John Cordingley and Nigel Atkins.

## **3. Applications for group membership**

There were no new applications for group membership.

## **4. Minutes of 2016 Annual General Meeting**

### **4.1 Proposal that that they be confirmed as a true record.**

RW proposed and JP seconded that they be accepted. They were accepted without comment.

### **4.2 Matters arising from the minutes of 2016 AGM.**

AE proposed that matters arising be raised under the agenda item of this meeting. No-one objected.

## **5. Chairman's report: Andy Eavis**

*I must start this year's AGM Chairman's report with an apology. Unfortunately, over the last year I have been something of an absentee Chairman, spending nearly 50% of my time abroad on various caving related projects. During the year several BCA matters have come to a head which has caused the Council a considerable amount of discussion and my absence hasn't helped. Clearly, we suffered with secretarial changes and Damian was always going to be a difficult act to follow. The combination of Simon and Leanne working very hard has been a great help, they have done their very best. I am very grateful to them over the last year.*

*If you read my report to the last AGM, it outlines what was going to happen this year and I have no intention of repeating all that again.*

*The first thing to mention in reporting activities over the last year must be Euro Speleo. What a tremendous success it was, with nearly 1,500 delegates, 700 caving trips and an enormous amount of fun and enjoyment, not to mention pints of beer consumed. A great event which has even made a profit. Thanks to several people, in particular Damian Weare for an incredible amount of effort, both before, during and after the event, Les and Wendy Williams for again organising a "Hidden Earth on Steroids" and the financial boys Robin Weare and Dave Cooke in particular for producing the very*

*acceptable financial result. All delegates paid a reasonable fee. Matt Wire and his IT team also did a fantastic job. Thank you very much indeed everybody.*

*Reorganisation within BCA training has progressed over the years with QMC coming as the professional training side and the original training committee handling recreational training. I'm sure in general this is the right way forward. As Chairman, I am very grateful and appreciate all the work put in by Graham Mollard and his team and the recreational training team.*

*The CRoW Officer Tim Allen has continued his work on clarifying the understanding of the CRoW Act and looking at conservation and access issues. In conjunction with Andrew Hinde, whether or not CRoW is seen by the authorities to apply to caves, we will be in a better position to look after access and control conservation in all British caves.*

*Andrew Hinde has worked tirelessly on the conservation side of BCA and in conjunction with Bob Mehew amongst others, has produced a range of literature, and there is more coming in the future. Nick Williams has continued the Insurance Officer's role and sowing the seeds for insurance of caving expeditions into the future.*

*The library at Glutton Bridge under the auspices of Jenny Potts, assisted by Mary Wilde is continuing to improve and is of real benefit to everybody who uses it.*

*The Royal Geographical Society weekend is now established for 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> December, it will showcase British cave discoveries both at home and abroad over the last 40 years. It will be an enormous amount of effort but I'm sure wholeheartedly worth it to promote a good image for caving in the right places.*

*Furthermore, I should like to thank all the BCA officers very much for their enormous amount of work over the last year. I would particularly like to thank Simon Brooks who stepped in as Secretary, into a very difficult position at a very difficult time. The act he had to follow was awesome and it was never going to be easy, and what with the aforementioned absent Chairman Simon was always going to have a much more difficult job than he (or I) imagined. With great reluctance, he has stepped down and for an interim period Nick Williams has offered to stand, subject to approval by the AGM, as Secretary, and will continue to work with Leanne Barrett on secretarial matters.*

*Over the next year I should like to strengthen the BCA executive and have a number of executive meetings by WebEx or Skype and bring in other helpful officers to appropriate meetings such as Bob Mehew, Tim Allen, Andrew Hinde and others.*

*Finally, I should like to say I look forward to BCA Council members working TOGETHER as a team and regularly talking amongst themselves. It cannot be acceptable in any organisation for people to communicate only by email or on internet forums etc. similarly putting forward all your proposals into council reports, again cannot be acceptable. We have to regularly discuss matters amongst ourselves and do a lot less of "drying our dirty washing in public". It would seem we all accept that there is a need for a national caving organisation (see my recent article on the website), we should therefore wholeheartedly support BCA. Council members moaning about BCA in their council reports and outside cannot be helpful, if we accept there is a need for such an organisation, shouldn't we be pulling together to promote its further success? We moan about people within BCA council failing on some of their projects, yet do our own projects outside of BCA in competition. Doesn't this rather undermine the enormous amount of work council members do only on behalf of the membership. In my opinion, the BCA Council should generally approve proposals brought to it by its members and only in very rare instances make decisions on a "committee" basis.*

*I look forward to a very constructive AGM and a very successful forthcoming year.*

There were no comments. RW proposed and JP seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

## **6. Secretary's report: Simon Brooks**

*Since taking up the post of Secretary in June of 2016 a good portion of my time has been spent on moving forward Admin and Actions from the previous BCA Council meetings and preparing for forthcoming meetings. This has involved regular liaison with the other Executive members and other Officers and Representatives all of whom have been very helpful and supportive. The appointment of a BCA Admin Assistant has also been particularly helpful.*

*However, taking up the role has proven to be somewhat of a steep learning curve and has taken up rather more of my time than I had originally anticipated. With ongoing changes in both my work and personal life the increased pressures on my time that this brings I feel that I will struggle to give the role the time it requires. Therefore with some reticence I tender my resignation from the role of BCA Secretary as of the forthcoming 2017 AGM.*

*This decision is softened by the fact that I am aware of A.N Other who is prepared to step into the role and I will make time to facilitate a smooth transition from me to them so as not to leave the BCA in the lurch.*

*Specific work over the last year has focused on:*

*Getting to grips (almost) with the BCA Constitution, processes and procedures.*

*Assisting with the appointment of a BCA Admin Support.*

*Action 36 - Manual of Operations (MOP's) - The Manual existed as both an on line document and as a file document with some discrepancies between the two versions that need addressing. The Manual of Operations states "More substantive changes that affect how BCA runs, must gain approval of BCA Council, and subsequently the AGM, before being made." Likely changes in how the QMC operates, potential constitutional amendments and procedural changes are likely to require a substantial change to the Manual. Work has begun on updating the MOP's and will remain ongoing as work in progress as the above changes impact..*

*Action 151 - investigate Social Media – Thanks to the work of David Cooke, Matt Wire, Gary Douthwaite and others a Facebook presence has been set up and provided enough information and new material can be fed into this it should prove a useful asset and communication tool for the BCA.*

*Action 175 – CRoW/Advice to ACB's – circulated as widely as possible using ACB and Council Contacts and BCA Website.*

*Action 184 – Constitutional amendments – involved a huge amount of work and with assistance from the BCA Exec and others such as Bob Mehew the proposed changes are tabled for the forthcoming AGM.*

*Action 194 – Changes have been put into place to gain 100 words describing Clubs and Organisations applying to join BCA along with their main contact point(s) that are now circulated to the National Council prior to them being accepted.*

SB commented that in addition to the report he had dealt with a large number of enquiries relating to the location of documents and alike.

There were no other comments. BM proposed and JP seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

## **7. Acting Treasurer's report: Robin Weare**

*During 2016 some long standing financial projects came to fruition and a few more were forced by changes of legislation or circumstance.*

*The switch from a single deposit account to a spread of deposit accounts had been intended for some time, but in the event was forced when the bank which held our deposits gave notice that the interest rate was to be reduced to zero.*

*We now have three separate deposit accounts with all individual account balances kept within the limit of protection provided by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. That we managed to do this whilst maintaining the interest level at a time when deposit interest rates were falling was more than satisfactory.*

*The fixed asset register has been completed and a pension scheme has been set up for our employees, meaning that the necessary process was in place and approved by the time it was legally required to be activated. The implementation of the scheme occurred smoothly in April 2017 at the same time as a switch to a new payroll programme. The relevant compliance declaration has been submitted well in advance of the due date.*

*The 2016 accounts were prepared in good time and I am grateful for the co-operation I received. I must also record my appreciation of Katie & Mary who collect and bank our income, of Sue who runs the payroll and of Dave Cooke & Dave Gibson who between them keep the income systems running. The accounts were subsequently scrutinised by Heather Simpson, our Independent Examiner. I am most grateful to her for assisting us in this way and for the advice she has unhesitatingly provided whenever it has been needed.*

*Overall, the accounts show a surplus of £10,805 which has been added to reserves. This was only a little more than half of the 2015 surplus but the reduction was in accordance with expectations. We have also added £5,000 to reserves in respect of a provision made in 2014 towards the cost of producing the next edition of Speleology. Following the decision to discontinue the publication that provision is no longer required.*

*The detail of the income and expenditure is set out in the accounts but I am sure that a few general comments will allow members to better consider them.*

*Subscription income in 2016 was less than in 2015 due to Council's decision to reduce the charge to Direct Individual Members, who no longer receive paper publications. That they still pay a little more than Club members reflects the additional administrative costs we incur on their behalf.*

*The decision to hold as many meetings as possible by Webex has resulted in reduced travel costs as well as huge savings in time for those who would otherwise have travelled to attend meetings. Although the basic cost of our Public Liability insurance remained unchanged we were hit by the increase in Insurance Premium Tax and will be hit again in the current year.*

*Towards the end of the year an administrative assistant was employed to take on some of the workload of the Secretary. Another change was the decision to take a series of advertisements in Descent at a cost of £1,986 in the year.*

*A one off donation of £400 was made to the Mend our Mountains campaign.*

*The Conservation & Access committee published the Minimal Impact leaflet as well as the well received coaster on which the new cave conservation code was printed. There was also some expenditure on the CRoW campaign and this activity was reflected in a spend of £2,045 compared with only £120 in 2015.*

*The deficit on the professional training scheme was £1,286 but this compares with a deficit of £5,164 in 2015. Although a few more clubs applied for Training Grants than in 2015 the total still came to only £500. It would be good to see more applications this year, there is more money available. General publications were the “Join BCA” leaflets which were distributed via show caves and the “Weil’s Disease” cards which went to all members as part of the 2017 renewals process. The 2015 expenditure on the Newsletter was for the final printed version. Since then the newsletter has been delivered by e-mail and placed on the website at no additional cost.*

*Equipment & Techniques expenditure was broadly in line with 2015 but the mix was quite different. Thanks to the use of Webex the £564 spent in 2015 travelling to meetings was saved in 2016. Also not recurring was the £2,000 contributed to the cost of developing a new bolt in 2015. The big one off cost in 2016 was the refurbishment of the rope test rig (materials £1445 plus a serious amount of unpaid labour). The balance in both years was the normal cost of supplying bolts and resin for installations throughout the country.*

*The cost of providing internet services for BCA, regional councils and other connected organisations was offset by the amounts earned from services provided to other users.*

*Regional Council claims included administration expenditure but mainly related to work undertaken for conservation & access purposes.*

*Donations of £10,000 to support the British Caving Library and £5,000 to support overseas expeditions were in line with previous years.*

*The Association continues to be able to meet running costs as they fall due and the Reserves position is strong in light of current expectations of foreseeable requirements.*

The accounts are appended to the minutes. RW had nothing to add to the report but asked if there were any questions.

GC asked if EuroSpeleo had an impact on the budget. RW clarified that this is a separate event that was sponsored by the BCA. Admin was provided for the event but had not been treated as a separate cost centre within the BCA accounts. (Post meeting note – EuroSpeleo is understood to have made a profit.)

SF asked if the reserves figure was broken down in any way or is just a ‘slush fund’. RW stated he was not aware of any such break down but had been informed by others that there was though he could not quantify it. AE noted the reserves were in part to cover insurance. SF asked if this was the £10,000 excess. RW indicated the insurance reserve was to cover 2 years premiums. SF stated that £214,000 minus £70,000 for 2 years premiums was a lot of money if there are no plans to do anything with it. DC commented as a past BCA Treasurer that he had set up a principle that in addition to the reserve for insurance, there should be 1 year’s income in the bank on top of this (around £120,000) and he considered it was worth having this in the bank. He also brought attention

to a situation in 2001 where insurance was lost and only got back because BCRA had money in the bank that could cover the first year's liability. (*Post meeting note this was 2003, not 2001.*) AE stated that this was an interesting point and would welcome any other ideas. SF accepted the position.

RW commented that he had found that a huge part of the treasurer's job involves being part of BCA's Executive, and with a new Secretary, an Acting Treasurer and a Chairman who had been out of the country for half the year some problems had arisen. RW expressed gratitude to those who had been tolerant during this time and would make no comment about those few who had not.

LW proposed and JP seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

## **8. Conservation & Access report: Andrew Hinde**

### ***Council report September 2016***

#### ***European Cave Protection Symposium***

*This well attended event took place during the Eurospeleo Congress in August 2016. The theme for presentations and workshops was "Cave Protection under EU Law" and featured some of the many Cave Monitoring procedures used across European karst areas.*

*British Delegates were major contributors and made useful contributions in spite of the "Brexit" dilemma. They also made useful connections with their European counterparts.*

*The symposium concluded with a Biological Monitoring Field Trip to Scoska Cave. This was probably the most productive element of the symposium and generated a good Q&A session with some of the leading Biospeleologists in Europe.*

#### ***An Education Strategy for the Conservation of Caves***

*The C&A committee have prepared an Education Strategy for the Conservation of Caves. It can be found in the appendix to the reports. Please note that this is NOT a policy document with details. It is more of a road map showing our proposed direction of travel. It is for BCA guidance. Eventually we hope to have guidance prepared for use by Clubs and Constituent Bodies should they wish to take advantage of it.*

#### ***Cave Conservation Code***

*The new 6 point Cave Conservation Code has been printed on full colour "coasters" and distributed at Eurospeleo. 2050 units were printed at a cost of £974. Any re print will be at a cost of 35p per unit.*

#### ***Minimal Impact Caving Guidelines***

*A print run of 2000 leaflets and 250 posters was produced at a cost of £488. Distribution of the pdf version has had modest success.*

*Andrew Hinde  
BCA C&A Convenor*

## **Council Report Jan 2017**

### ***An Educational Strategy for the Conservation of Caves***

*This document has been sent to Descent magazine for inclusion in a future edition. It has also been published on the Darkness Below Website.*

### **Conservation Posters**

*Several University Caving Clubs submitted entries to the **UK Caving** Cave Conservation Poster Competition. It was clear from the standard of entries that CHECC has embedded the conservation message throughout its membership. Some of the entries deserve wider circulation and I would like to propose that a small amount of money is made available to assist in redrafting and publication.*

### **Conservation Signage**

*The C&A Committee have discussed the need for conservation messages to be made available to all cave visitors at some specific “cave entrance/car park areas”. This is best done by the Regional Caving Councils. I would like to propose that applications from RCC’s for signage should be 50% funded by BCA where no other partner organisation is forthcoming. Signage in National Parks is closely controlled and does not come cheap (typically £750-£1000). YDNP has agreed to co-finance some conservation and interpretation signs at key sites in the Dales. Thanks to Tim Allen for pursuing this initiative. We are particularly concerned about heavily used sites with large numbers of novices and casual visitors who are not reached through conventional caving networks.*

### **Caving Codes and Guidelines**

*I will have a box of posters and leaflets available for further distribution at the Council Meeting. I am particularly keen to see more of these posters in pubs and shops in the caving areas.*

*Andrew Hinde  
Jan 2017.*

## **Council Report March 2017**

*Since the last meeting I have delivered two illustrated talks on Cave Conservation to Wildlife Trust Groups in the North of England.*

*After much internal communications the C&A Committee have concluded that the Bat Conservation Trust advice on our BCA website can remain without any accompanying remarks. Any perceived conflict between cavers and bats/ local bat groups/ statutory advisers etc is best dealt with locally and where possible by early intervention and cooperation.*

*An investigation has taken place into the uptake of the new 6 point Conservation Code and the Minimal Impact Caving Guidelines on RCC and Caving Club websites. The results were very disappointing. In light of this the documents were distributed again to RCC secretaries on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017 asking that they pass these codes on to club secretaries and webmasters requesting that they be given a prominent and permanent position on club websites. At present the number of club websites with any conservation information can be counted on the fingers of one hand. I would like to*

*thank Jenny Potts and Chris Binding for assistance with research at regional level. I hope to be able to announce some improvement when this task is repeated after 6 months.*

*The number of permits issued for many of the Dales finest cave systems have dropped by as much as 60% in the last few years.eg Birks Fell Cavern. It would be interesting to see if this level of decline is replicated in other regions. It may be useful to have recorded evidence collected. Are we seeing a growth of BCA membership alongside a decline in caving activity?*

*Andrew Hinde  
March 2017*

### ***Concluding statement to the BCA AGM and the BCA Membership***

*I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the work of the Conservation and Access Committee in the last 12 months or so. It has a crucial role and it is establishing a good working relationship involving all of the talent and experience available to it. We work voluntarily in what we believe to be the best interests of the membership. You do not have to be a member of the C&A committee to make valuable contributions.*

*I can be contacted at [conservation@british-caving.org.uk](mailto:conservation@british-caving.org.uk)*

AH added he wished to minute his thanks to Tim Allen for his contribution to the Conservation & Access Committee as CRoW Liaison officer.

RW proposed and LW seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

### **8.1 CROW: Tim Allen**

*Apologies in advance for both the length of this report and the criticism it poses at times. I applaud the voluntary efforts of many council members of BCA especially the chairman who works very hard on our behalf.*

*The BCA campaign to confirm existing rights of access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 has not been as effective this year as last. The BCA has allowed the campaign to become bogged down in internal politics centred on a single sentence of the constitution. Complaints from the Council of Southern Caving Clubs (made to the April 2016 council meeting) that the campaign was unconstitutional highlighted the sentence, “That the owners and tenants of property containing caves have the right to grant or withhold access”. This, it was claimed, prevented the BCA from campaigning for CRoW to apply to caving. This is refuted by many and does not take into account the fact that the Land Reform Act (Scotland) had already taken that right away north of the border and the CRoW Act may well have already taken it away to the south. This had already been dealt with by BCA Council on several occasions when the following statement had been agreed, “BCA Council is fully aware of the Guiding Principles as outlined in sections 4.2 - 4.8 of the constitution and always seeks to act in line with these. However, the law of the land takes precedent over a constitution. Therefore, Council is happy that sections 4.4 - 4.8 are no impediment to BCA campaigning to change DEFRA’s current interpretation of the law, which by their own admission is not definitive.”*

*However, at last year’s AGM a new, amended motion was passed. This stated,*

*“To remit the issue of section 4.6 of the constitution to Council for consideration to return with a properly worded proposal presented at the next General Meeting. Meanwhile BCA will concentrate on conservation and landowner relations.”*

*The inclusion of the latter sentence of this motion showed a very substantive change and consequence from the original motion that had been properly tabled to the AGM. It effectively limited the campaign which was in progress at the time. Representatives of BCA groups and clubs attending the meeting could not have consulted their members on this major change and therefore it should never have been allowed. Following the AGM I received instructions from the Exec on how to proceed. These were somewhat ambiguous but never the less made it clear that I was to “play it down” until after the next AGM, avoid being proactive in the media and concentrate on conservation and access issues. This I have done.*

*I have assisted the C&A officer wherever possible and I appreciated the vote of thanks from the January council meeting for the “incredible amount of work getting the conservation message out.” I have also had a number of dealings with some major caving landowners mostly in the north of England. Some welcome all cavers, some are ambivalent and some would prefer a managed access system. However, even those, have stated that if the CRow Act applies to caving then they are content to abide by the law of the land. There was never any talk of recriminations against cavers for pursuing access under CRow.*

*It is difficult to see what more I can do to “concentrate.... on landowner relations”. BCA itself is unable to approach landowners directly unless permitted through the regional councils. I note with dismay the comment in the minutes of the AGM which states, “We would not wish to support anything that gives Tim Allen the chance to talk directly to landowners.” What is the motivation here when clearly I have spoken to many landowners without upsetting them? It is perhaps obvious that a landowner’s opinion is formed, in part, by the information he receives from his local caving contacts. These opinions may reflect the attitudes of those cavers and it is limited in the effect that BCA can have on this. I have asked the question below to the CSCC representative to Council at several meetings,*

*“I am unable to do much to improve landowner relations in the regions due to BCA restraints, especially on Mendip where many of the problems with CRow has been reported. Could CSCC report on what progress they have made in allaying the landowner fears they were so concerned about?”*

*The reply essentially stated that the CSCC had done nothing to allay reported fears as they were content with the status quo. There seems little BCA can do to improve this situation if the regional council have no wish to progress matters. However, on the subject of landowner relations BCA Council made the following statement.*

*“BCA Council has the utmost respect for landowners and recognises their right to decide how their land is used within the constraints of the law. It is now more than 15 years since the CRow Act was introduced. At the time all sorts of potential concerns were raised by opponents of the legislation, but Council believes these have largely failed to materialise. Indeed in general landowners now seem content with the legislation and Council does not see this changing if caving is shown to also be included as a permitted activity. Furthermore CRow legislation reduces landowners’ potential liability to the lowest level possible in law and, as such, Council believes the majority of landowners will benefit if the CRow Act is understood to apply to caves.”*

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*Reported in October, I had written a report to the exec intended to answer the question of whether the BCA has fulfilled any obligation it has in connection with the later part of point number two of the*

BCA poll on CRoW, namely, "To consult with landowners and open communication with the Country Land and Business Association." This concluded that the CLBA had made its position clear on numerous occasions and dialogue was unlikely to be effective. However, since then the implications of Brexit are becoming more apparent to farmers and land managers who may well loose out from cuts to moorland subsidies. Establishing the recreational value of these areas is becoming of more interest where previous unlikely partnerships may now seem attractive. I shall be looking at these.

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Also at the October Council meeting I made statements to the meeting which were not reported in the minutes. The first part of the statement reminded Council of the historical support there had been for wider public access to caves from national caving bodies. The first goes back to 1949, the time of the National Park and Access to the Countryside Act (NPAC). Here the Cave Research Group are calling on individual cavers to lobby their MPs for greater access to caves. They state, "Although we are interested in being able to walk across the country-side to the entrances of caves, our prime objective is to be able to gain access freely to the caves".

In 1976 the National Caving Association and the BMC working with the Central Council for Physical Recreation instigated a statement on access which clearly backed public access for both outdoor recreations and highlighted how voluntary agreements weren't working as intended by NPAC. In 1998 the NCA made a detailed response to the consultation paper on the CRoW Act. Despite what others have said since it is clear from the actual submission that the NCA supported the inclusion of caves and caving in the Act.

When the CRoW Act was introduced, Michael Meacher, Minister for the Environment, stated in the House of Commons that the Bill, "finally achieves the aims and aspirations of the great post-war Labour legislation the National Park and Access to the Countryside Act, fulfilling the yearnings of the British people...for full rights of access to the beauties of the countryside....and finally bringing to reality the dream of Lloyd George that nobody should be a trespasser in the land of their birth." He went on to remind the house that, "the decision to legislate has been supported by very substantial majorities in the responses to extensive consultations and opinion polls."

The public majority was reflected in BCAs own poll of December 2014 when members gave a clear mandate for BCA to campaign for cave access under CRoW. BCA Council has very much supported that position but a minority has worked tirelessly to undermine it.

The second part of my statement reported on the level of unpleasant personal abuse I was receiving on social media because of my BCA role. This extended to attacks on friends who came to my aid and reached a level no decent person should tolerate. The name-calling appears to come from a small group of individuals who are vehemently opposed to CRoW. It is a classic tactic, if you cannot win the argument attack the person making the argument. BCA should not be fooled by it. These are attempts to cast doubt on my integrity and to undermine my position.

More recently, ahead of this AGM, rumours are being spread questioning the validity of my BCA role. Apparently I am an imposter in the role and BCA have until recently colluded in this deception. I have asked the exec to make a statement to squash these rumours but to date their response has been totally unsatisfactory especially as comments by the exec seem to have been a contributory factor. I seem to be left to defend myself.

For the record, the position of CRoW Liaison Officer was appointed at the June 2015 Council meeting. Due process was followed in line with the BCA constitution as reflected in the minutes of that meeting. I have since carried out those duties as mandated by the BCA Council. All my efforts

*and reports have been accepted by Council, and we have even had a specific unanimous vote which supported the work I was doing.*

*Some members have suggested my efforts as CRoW Liaison Officer are not as well supported as they should be or that I am 'hung out to dry' by elements within BCA. It appears to me that the name-calling minority do receive undeserved attention and are pandered to with private meetings, personal communications, etc, whilst the silent majority are largely ignored. This is a problem for BCA's credibility within its wider membership.*

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*The proposed constitutional amendments to section 4.6 is not something that I wished to become involved with. I had confidence that the exec or council itself could come up with appropriate wording to satisfy the need. The chairman assured me on several occasions that this was the case. However, nothing appeared on the October meeting agenda and a mix up ensured nothing appeared for the January meeting either. When the exec proposals were made available it was immediately obvious that there was little understanding of the problems involved. The Legal Officer immediately made this very clear in a number of detailed reports but by this time the timetable for proposals was already running late.*

*As a result, on the 25<sup>th</sup> January, I put forward my own modest solution to this problem by submitting two simple motions to the June 2017 BCA AGM. (I later sent in a third clarifying motion).*

*I have looked into the origin of the first sentence of section 4.6 of the BCA constitution. It has been impossible to discover the exact reason it is there, other than the fact it was transferred across from the constitution of the NCA. I'm sure the spirit of that sentence is clear though – that cavers should respect the law and be courteous to tenants and landowners. Left alone I'm sure it could have sat quite harmlessly in the constitution as a reminder of that spirit.*

*Unfortunately this expensive and time consuming reform has been forced on the BCA for the wrong reasons by the minority who are unwilling to accept the democratic vote of the membership on a CRoW campaign. It should be made clear to the landowning community that this change shows no disrespect to them. It merely deals with an issue that must now be dealt with, correcting an inaccuracy and most importantly allowing the BCA to pursue policy which it has a mandate to follow. We do not need to be reminded in our constitution that we must obey the law. We should respect landowners' rights, but then, must we respect the rights of quarry owners and other businessmen who may wish to damage caves? They are within their rights to apply for planning permission to destroy or develop caves in ways which BCA may wish to oppose. Does our constitution allow us to fight and oppose that? What about our Human Rights or the rights we all hold to challenge the decision of a public authority by Judicial Review. Should that not be in our constitution? We should respect the speed limit, parking by-laws, decency laws, laws on drinking, drugs, public behaviour, and the environment, etc, etc. Are we to include these in our constitution too? No, of course not, let's just remove the troublesome sentence and move forward.*

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*Where are we at now? This year I have attended some meetings, notably with Natural Resources Wales at the request of Cambrian CC. My parliamentary contacts have kept in touch and I have monitored Government changes since the Brexit vote and latest election. I have avoided doing any media and concentrated on conservation and landowner relations where that is possible.*

*Essentially little has changed since last year. The situation is that the CRoW Act may cover caving, it may not and it has been impossible to clarify this one way or the other. On the one hand DEFRA, together with NE and NRW, state that in their view it does not apply. They make it clear that this is only their VIEW and their VIEW is not definitive. They say that in the end only a court can decide. They also state that they have sought no Barrister's opinion to arrive at this view. On the other hand Dinah Rose QC offered her opinion that CRoW did apply to caving. The BCA Legal Officer has presented a strong case to show that this was parliament's intent when introducing the Bill. In addition a number of other outdoor organisations have supported BCA's campaign, for example; The Sports & Recreation Alliance, Outdoor Industries Association, British Mountaineering Council, British Canoeing, British Orienteering, Land Access & Recreation Association, Campaign for National Parks, Friends of the Peak District, together with individuals such as The Rt Hon David Davis MP, David Rutley MP, Chairman of Mountaineering All Party Parliamentary group and Lord Chris Smith, Chairman of the Environment Agency 2008-2014. We have a strong and well supported case.*

*The reality is that any caver can claim a right of access to caves on access land. The tone from government agencies is that they are not going to challenge cavers or settle the matter in court. A landowner who wishes to clarify trespass or a citizen challenging for access under Judicial Review will be in for an uncertain outcome and significant costs. Consequently there is almost nothing to stop cavers accessing most caves on CRoW land and that is a fact.*

*So where do BCA go next? To continue a campaign to have caving more widely recognised as coming under the CRoW Act is one thing, but it does look like that boat is already sailing. BCA have procrastinated for ten years or more on this issue and have been behind the moves of ordinary cavers at every step. Now, whilst we have spent the last year mulling over a single sentence of the constitution the subtle tones of CRoW have moved on again.*

*As always, I look forward to receiving Council's direction.*

*Tim Allen  
BCA CRoW Liaison Officer*

There were no comments. LW proposed and JP seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

## **9. Equipment & Techniques: Nick Williams**

- Bob Mehew continues to support my role as Committee Chair by acting as a very able Secretary; thank you.
- Meetings held (by Webex) on 20 March 2016, 1 December 2016, 6 March 2017.
- Activities continue to be focussed on anchor scheme.
- Around 200 anchors plus associated resin and placing equipment issued to regions.
- Testing for qualification of new anchors continues, with mixed results.
- CEN have started work on a new standard for rock anchors which will update/replace the current EN 959. BCA have been given a place on the BS mirror committee.

There were no comments. RW proposed and SB seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

### **9.1 Rope Testing: Bob Mehew**

*I have found it difficult to provide an adequate level of service for an admittedly small number of enquiries owing to other demands on my time by BCA. I did manage to take the rig to EuroSpeleo event and also hold a day's field trip to the instrumented dynamic and static rope test rigs at the Bradford Pothole Club's headquarters.*

There were no comments. RW proposed and IW seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

### **10. Training: Nigel Ball**

*The following data is from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017.*

<i>LCML registrations</i>	<i>157</i>
<i>LCML Level 1 assessments</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>LCML Level 2 assessments</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>LCML Level 1 revalidations</i>	<i>52</i>
<i>LCML Level 2 revalidations</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>LCML Level 1 Core Skills Reassessments (CSR)</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>LCML Level 2 core Skills Reassessments (CSR)</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>CIC registrations</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>CIC assessments</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>CIC revalidations</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Active CIC holders</i>	<i>79</i>
<i>Active LCML Level 1 holders</i>	<i>480</i>
<i>Active LCML Level 2 holders</i>	<i>270</i>

There were no comments. IW proposed and JP seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

### **11. Q.M.C. (Qualifications Management Committee): Graham Mollard**

GM stated that there was no written report but work has carried on throughout the year and he thanked people who have put in a lot of work on projects, particularly NW, BM, JP and Mary Wilde.

There were no comments. RW proposed and JP seconded that the verbal report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

### **12. Publications & Information: Les Williams**

*BCA's policy on publications is to make all the information available, for free, via the internet. Even so, we still produce a number of paper leaflets and also the important Weils Disease card. My thanks go to all those involved with the updating and production of them, in particular I must single out Bob Mehew who has put massive amounts of work into this.*

*The volunteers working within Publications and Information have submitted their own reports so I have little to add other than to thank them, on your behalf, for their hard work I thank Dave Cooke for all the work he has done on the website, and to the officers that have helped maintain the information within.*

*I thank Robin Weare for producing the Newsletter, and to all the officers and others that have contributed material to it.*

*Web services continue to provide BCA's IT systems and also provide reliable hosting for many caving institutions, thanks to all that have helped in keeping this service professional and reliable for the users.*

*I have enjoyed my tenure as P&I Officer and will be happy to stand again if elected.*

LW reiterated his thanks to the volunteers who have done so much work to support and for the benefit of everyone.

TR proposed and DW seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

## **12.1 Webmaster: David Cooke**

### ***Website***

*The Google Analytics service gives an idea of how much the website is being used. For the main BCA website, for the calendar year 2016 as a monthly average there were 5980(5986) page views, 1796(2055) sessions and 1154(1436) individual users. The average user viewed 3.33(2.91) pages and stayed for 2:41(2:19) minutes. The top 10 pages were:, Welcome, Training LCMLA Scheme, Training Downloads, Membership, Training, News & Events, PL Insurance, About BCA, 2016 Membership, Contact BCA.*

*The figure in brackets is for 2015. So in summary the website is being used and that usage is pretty consistent over time. There number of users is slightly lower but they are spending more time on the site. It could be argued that users of the training scheme are making more use of the website than our members.*

*I would like to thank the Newsletter Editor, Training Administrator, Rope Test Officer and Insurance Manager for keeping their sections of the website up to date. I would like more Council Members to update there own sections of the website. I'm always willing to offer help and advice. It really isn't difficult. Failing that I will post any content that is sent to me.*

*I must thank Glenn Jones and David Gibson for their help in running BCA Online. BCA Online allows members to login under their own membership number and set their own email contact preferences. They can change their email address and password as necessary. They can review their membership details (membership status, insurance status, address, etc) as held by BCA. This provides BCA with a verified and maintained list of email addresses and crucially, to remain legal, the consents to use them. That will be of particular value if BCA moves to holding on-line ballots. The last time a ballot was held the contact database was found to contain many duplicates making task much harder. That is no longer the case.*

*The BCA Online mailing list has been used to distribute the BCA Newsletter to members since Issue 23, Oct 2015. Of the 5719 current members 4147 have provided email addresses, 542 have opted-in for the Newsletter and 278 have registered with BCA Online. Whilst the trend is in the right direction there is much to do.*

	<i>Oct 2015</i>	<i>Apr 2016</i>	<i>Jun 2017</i>
<i>Provided email address</i>	63%	68%	72%
<i>Opted in for Newsletter</i>	8%	8%	10%
<i>Registered with BCA Online</i>	2%	4%	5%

There were no comments. LW proposed and GM seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

## **12.2 Webservices: David Cooke**

*There are currently 72 domains registered through BCA Web Services with 58 websites hosted. The BCA funds 16 of those websites including the Regional Councils, BCRA, BCRA's Special Interest Groups, Cave Registry Data Archive, Caving Library and some of the cave rescue organisations. The majority of websites have been moved from the aging britiac2 server to the new britiac3 server. Websites on the new server benefit from free SSL security certificates and a choice of php versions including the very latest version 7.1.*

*The general work of keeping the web server up and running, supporting the clubs and organisations that we host and doing the financial book keeping continues quietly in the background. I would like to thank Matt Voysey, Les Williams and Matt Wire for their help with the server and Katie Eavis for her help with the book keeping and banking.*

There were no comments. TR proposed and GM seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

## **12.3 Newsletter Editor: Robin Weare**

*Four newsletters were produced during 2016 and two have been produced since. All have been published on the BCA website and circulated by e-mail to those members who have elected to receive direct copies.*

*Following a request from the UIS supported Karst Information Portal it has been agreed by BCA Council that they may add copies of our newsletter to their archive.*

*I have continued to try to provide timely information and to bring to the attention of our membership some of the work which goes on behind the scenes for their benefit.*

*However hard I try and however long the newsletter it cannot be possible to reflect all of that work. I do hope, however, that I have at least been partially successful.*

*I have also continued to try to inform the wider membership about some of the work done by our constituent bodies.*

RW added that since picking the job up 3 years ago he has produced a dozen newsletters and has proved that the job can be done regularly and timely. He expressed gratitude to those who have produced items, especially those who have done so without being asked. RW went on to state that this post along with being acting Treasurer has led to too high a work load and cannot continue. He announced that he would be giving up the Newsletter Editor position after the next edition. He

urged someone to take it on. It is a rewarding position and it would be a shame if the newsletter was allowed to die off.

AE expressed gratitude for work that RW has done and invited volunteers to make themselves known.

LW proposed and TR seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

### **13. Legal & Insurance: Bob Mehew**

*Since taking up the post at the last AGM, I have had several enquiries for which I have been able to provide some advice regarding the explicit inclusion of clubs' Trustees in the insurance policies and on advising persons with significant medical conditions to declare them directly to the trip leader rather than as part of the club membership process which would result in onerous information safekeeping requirements. I have also contributed towards a revision of the professional caving disciplinary procedure and as a consequence revised BCA's disciplinary procedure contained in the Manual of Operations. (I am unclear as to what has happened to this revision.)*

*I have contributed towards a request by the broker for Access Controlling Bodies to conduct 'risk assessments' but my approach has not found favour. Similar work on winch operations resulted in only one person (in addition to the Bradford and Craven Pothole Clubs) declaring that they conduct man riding winching activities. That individual made a most useful contribution but the pressure of other work has not allowed me to move forward on that topic.*

*I made a substantial set of comments on various proposals to change the constitution in January but am disappointed to realise that they were effectively totally ignored. The consequences of this has caused me to have to spend a substantial amount of effort in trying to help sort out the mess surrounding the proposed constitutional changes such that I am giving serious consideration to resigning from the post of Legal & Insurance Officer.*

BM added that he had nothing to add to his report. There were no other comments. RW proposed and SB seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

#### **13.1 Insurance Manager: Nick Williams**

*I have dealt with approximately 40 assorted enquiries about the scheme during the year, each of which required a chain of typically 5 - 10 e-mails.*

*- No claims, I'm pleased to say.*

*- Premium unchanged from last year except for rise in IPT.*

*- Broker still providing good follow up and support although service has taken a dip in the last three months or so because our main contact has been on long term sick leave. A new contact was appointed last week.*

*- Travel insurance on the back burner due to pressure of other commitments. Needs a volunteer to pursue this.*

*- Ditto club/ACB risk assessments*

*- More clubs taking up hut insurance; feedback generally satisfactory.*

- Still need to ensure we have up to date records of property/land owned/leased by BCA member clubs/ACBs

- Not strictly a PL matter but need to note than Glenn Jones continues to provide a fast and reliable membership administration service, a matter in which he is ably assisted by Katie Eavis. Our thanks are due to them both.

There were no comments. GM proposed and DW seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

#### 14. Membership Administrator: Glenn Jones

*DIMs (Caving):532 (Non-caving):70 (DIMs incl. BCRA: 292 (includes 14 student discount),Honorary (BCRA): 6*

*CIMs (Caving): 3754 (Student): 560 (Non-caving): 815*

*Clubs: 157*

*Associates: 3*

*Access: 8*

**Membership Trends:** *The table below shows membership trends since BCA's formation. It is important to note that data for 2004 and 2005 is presented in a different format to that currently employed, but I believe the figures for those years are accurate enough for comparison. There is no reliable data for 2006.*

*1006 new membership numbers were issued during 2016: 15838 – 16844*

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>DIM's</b>	93	185		437	432	397	487*	505*	507*	513*	535*	562*	612
<b>CIM's</b>	3,523	3,909		4,965	5,216	5,115	5,296	5,435	5,397	5585	5564	5505	5536
<b>Groups</b>	89	140		153	152	160	166	189	159	186	190	195	185

*\*Including 21 CIM Plus members in 2010, 12 in 2011 and 9 in 2012 and 7 in 2013 and 3 in 2014 and 5 in 2015*

- *The CIM Plus option has been discontinued for 2017 due to low take up.*

There were no comments. RW proposed and IW seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

#### 15. Cave Registry Co-Ordinator: David Cooke

*The Peak District Cave Registry and Access Guide went live in July 2016. It is available on the DCA's website. The guide has been collated from the late John Beck's Peak District Cave Registry in combination with the access information and rigging diagrams from the DCA Peak District Access and Rigging Guide. It uses the same software that Matt Voysey developed for the Mendip Cave Registry and Archive (MCRA) and has been adapted for DCA's requirements. Wayne Sheldon prepared the data for the guide with assistance from Angus Sawyer.*

*The Scottish Cave Registry is being actively worked upon and will use the same MCRA software. It is hoped that it will go live soon.*

*The BCA hosted Cave Registry Data Archive has continued to grow and is now a substantial 26GB in size. The Archive is the place to keep your survey data safe. Not only is the data kept secure and safe but the archive provides version control tools to help manage and coordinate the larger projects. The Archive will accept data from UK cavers for any project, large or small, either here or overseas, where there is a significant UK caver involvement. My thanks to Andrew Atkinson for his tireless work on the Archive.*

There were no comments. TR proposed and RW seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

#### **16. IT Working Party: David Cooke**

*The IT Working Party exists to provide expertise to BCA on IT matters. There was some surprise when BCA Training proposed to purchase an expensive Training Administration Software System without consulting the ITWP. There are significant dangers for the uninitiated. For example the cost of modifying the software to do as Training needs can escalate alarmingly or to make sure BCA has control of and access to its data which often isn't the case with a proprietary system. I'm pleased to be able to report that a proper process of due diligence is now being undertaken. The learning point is that the ITWP should be involved at an early stage.*

*The IT Working Part is comprised of a small group of techies and a representative from the Executive. With the addition of Matt Wire, the group has grown to a size where more formal and regular meetings are required to keep everyone on track. These meetings are now being held. Work on enhancing BCA Online and Membership System continues. Volunteer programmers are being sought and encouraged to get involved.*

There were no comments. IW proposed and RW seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

#### **17. Youth & Development: Rostam Namaghi**

RN presented his apologies for not producing a written report and stated that since the last AGM there have been no significant issues. He had proposed a program of work last year but nothing had been achieved. A handbook was drafted but not enough feedback had been received to take it forward. He had also realised that he did not have enough time to be able to pursue matters. RM reported that in his opinion the role shouldn't be there as CHECC and Scout Caving were providing good representation and his role just makes the BCA committee larger.

AE noted that the position was to represent youth and also to encourage development which brought younger membership into BCA. RN agreed that one reason to keep the position is to encourage and help bigger clubs (not universities) to bring youth in even though it is in their interest to do so anyway. He suggested an alternative way would be to create a Working Group focused on the development of involvement of youth. AH suggested that Council should look into this idea.

There were no other comments. RW proposed and IW seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

#### **18. International Representative: Andy Eavis**

*On the world caving front and the International Union of Speleology in particular, the main work has been aimed at the forthcoming international congress in Sydney, July 20<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>*  
<https://www.speleo2017.com>

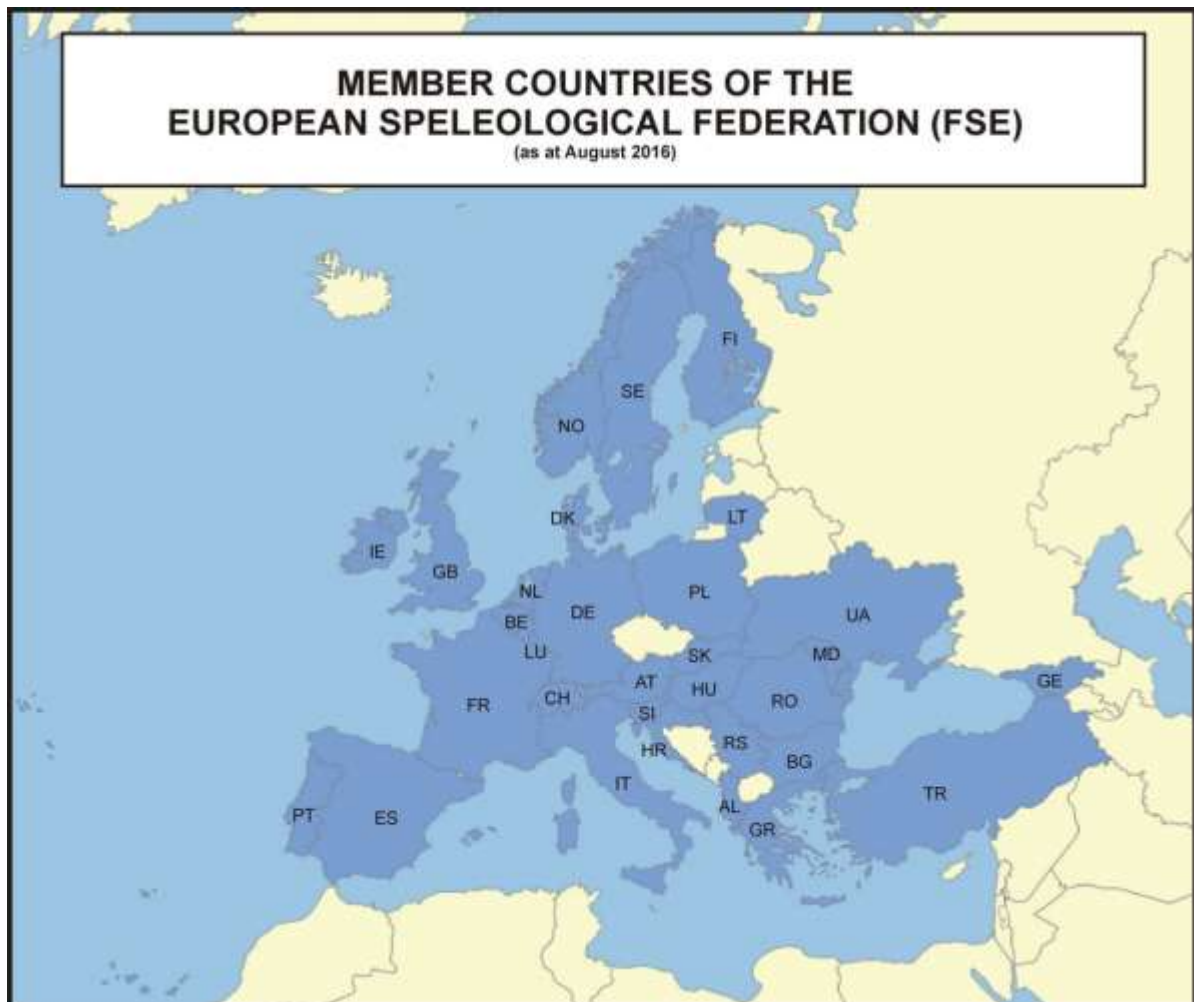
*The organisation of the congress is now coming together and looking like a very good event. There will be cavers from all over the world and a huge amount of exploration and cave science being discussed. A great and very enjoyable event for people interested in exploring caves. There is also an excellent programme of pre and post congress excursions, including most of the caving areas in Australia and even trips in New Zealand.*

*There will be the election of the new UIS officers. My next international report will concentrate on the congress, I am sure you will find it very interesting.*

There were no comments. RW proposed and TA seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

### **18.1 FSE Representative: Ged Campion**

*The FSE currently represents 31 countries representing around 38,000 cavers. A total of 17 countries were in attendance or represented at the General Assembly Meeting (GAM) at EuroSpeleo congress in the Yorkshire Dales in August last year.*



*The complicated situation in Spain is now resolved. The former federation 'Fedaracion Espeleo Espana' (FEE) legally ceased to exist in 2015. Two new national speleological organizations were founded in Spain: the 'Asociación Española de Espeleología y Barrancos' (ASEDEB) and the 'Confederacion de Espeleologica y Canones' (CEC). The two organisations were unable to reach a*

*decision on which would constitute the countries national body. Representatives of CEC joined the 2016 GAM and declared that their organisation had bought the library, archives and the trademarks of FEE. It represents 11 of the 13 Spanish regions. About 7.600 Spanish cavers were said to be members of CEC, which represents about 80% of the Spanish caving community. The CEC is now the recognised national body of Spain represented on the FSE.*

### ***Information & Publicity.***

*The FSE Facebook page, updated regularly by Henk Goutier (Netherlands), is continuously visited by thousands of cavers and non-cavers thus representing an excellent outreach for European speleology. URL: <https://www.facebook.com/eurospeleo>. Also, with the help of our partners of the WikiCaves organisation keep the FSE website updated on a regular basis.*

### ***The work of the ECPC commission***

*The FSE, through the European Cave Protection Commission (ECPC) is now a member of the Board of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) in Brussels and thus directly involved in the EEB decision-making. Bärbel Vogel occupies this job for the FSE. ECPC is active in the EEB workgroups “Water” and “Biodiversity”. The “Nature Alert” campaign of EEB, is striving to maintain the strong European nature protection standards. ECPC was present at the EEB General Assembly in Vienna in September 2016 with a representative and an FSE/ECPC poster presentation. The FSE will be actively supporting the International year of Caves & Karst 2021 an initiative led by the UIS.*

### ***The European Cave Rescue Commission***

*The post of chairman of the European Cave Rescue Commission (ECRC) was up for nomination. ECRC chairman, Christian Dodelin, (France) wished to stand down. Ms. Antonia Vlaykova from the Bulgarian Federation of Speleology (BFS) applied for the post. There were no other candidates the GAM elected Antonia Vlaykova for a 4-years term as ECRC chairwoman (until 2020).*

### ***The International Caving Expeditions database (ICE db)***

*Treasurer Henk Goutier maintains the contact with WikiCaves. The ICE db is steadily growing. The idea is to provide all speleologists with data and contact information about caving areas world-wide. This is done in collaboration with the UIS. All reports of EuroSpeleo Projects are now also available on the WikiCaves website. WikiCaves currently provides major translation assistance e.g. for the FSE Newsletter*

### ***Change of role on the FSE bureau***

*At the last GAM Vice-President Michael Laumanns (Germany) resigned from vice president and moved to the position of Vice-Secretary which had been vacant since 2014. He was already managing the EuroSpeleo Projects, part of the vice secretary’s job description. This forced a vacancy for the post of FSE Vice-President. One candidature was received from Mladen Garasic (Croatia) who was elected by the GAM as Vice President.*

### ***Eurospeleo Projects***

*EuroSpeleo Projects form a big part of the of work for the FSE. Work continues to encourage more applications from the UK.*

*The table below shows EuroSpeleo Projects (ESP) and EuroSpeleo Forums/Congresses supported by FSE between June 2016 to present.*

<b><i>Name and number of ESP</i></b>	<b><i>Applicant country</i></b>
<i>ESP 2015-13 Cleaning and 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gouffre Berger</i>	<i>France</i>
<i>5<sup>th</sup> EuroSpeleo Congress in Dalesbridge / Austwick</i>	<i>UK</i>
<i>ESP 2016-01 Dao 2016 (Thailand expedition)</i>	<i>Belgium</i>
<i>ESP 2016-02 Exploration of Grotte de Chamois</i>	<i>France</i>
<i>ESP 2016-03 Expedition to Zverinjacke Rupe (Montenegro)</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>
<i>ESP 2016-04 International Youth Camp</i>	<i>Germany</i>
<i>ESP 2016-05 International Female Caving School</i>	<i>France</i>
<i>ESP 2016-06 Expedition to Myanmar (Shan and Myeik)</i>	<i>Germany</i>
<i>ESP 2016-07 Explo-Laos (expedition to Khammouane)</i>	<i>France</i>
<i>ESP 2017-01 Continued Cleaning of Gouffre Berger</i>	<i>France</i>
<i>ESP 2017-02 Training Course in Bosnia</i>	<i>France</i>
<i>ESP 2017-03 Expedition to Serra da Bodoquena (Brazil)</i>	<i>Germany</i>
<i>ESP 2017-04 Expedition to Alay Mts. (Kyrgyzstan)</i>	<i>Serbia</i>
<i>ESP 2017-05 “Speleozistan” expedition to Kan-i-Gut (Kyrgyzstan)</i>	<i>France</i>
<i>ESP 2017-06 11<sup>th</sup> European Cave Rescue Meeting</i>	<i>Bulgaria</i>
<i>ESP 2017-07 International Female Caving School</i>	<i>Romania</i>

***Timetable of Eurospeleo events & General Assembly Meetings over next 2 years that involve the FSE.***

*ES Forum 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017 Ferrieres Belgium  
ES Forum 2018 will be in Sazkammergut, Upper-Austria.*

GC commented that thankfully Brexit hasn't really affected relationships with European caving. It was disappointing that there is only 1 UK based project and asked the AGM to encourage people to consider making use of the facility. RW noted that grants were available to help fund projects including expeditions. In response to a query, GC noted that the acceptance criteria required that any project should include persons with nationalities from at least four FSE member countries.

There were no other comments. RW proposed and DW seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

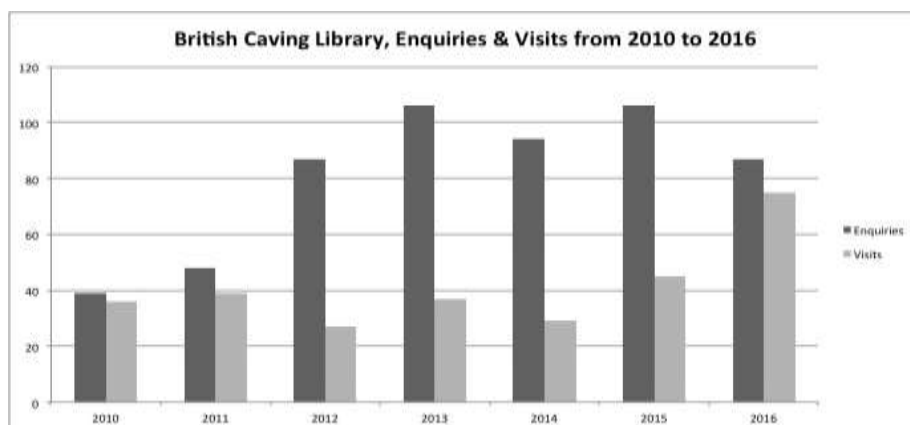
## 19. British Caving Library: Jenny Potts

### *Library Use*

*The use of the Library continues to increase steadily, particularly the number of visitors who appreciate the facilities we provide: use of a computer, scanning, printing, copying, WiFi, etc; help in finding items in advance of a visit to save time and on-site help for our visitors.*

*The chart shows the progress in enquiries and visits for the years 2010 to 2016. Additionally, during the first 4 months of 2017 we have welcomed a further 27 visitors to BCL and answered 38 more emailed enquiries. Last year for enquiries the ratio of straightforward copies to items requiring research was 65:35; this year it is approaching 50:50. We receive an increasing number of enquiries from abroad. Enquiries are handled by the Librarian, Mary Wilde.*

*The Library is also used for meetings of BCRA Council and BCA Training Committees and is able to accommodate meetings of up to 12 people.*



### *Increases in Holdings*

*We now hold over 400 runs of UK periodicals and also periodicals from 51 different foreign countries (with over 400 titles), including 35 received in regular exchanges for BCRA Caves & Karst Science. We have over 1750 books and now hold collections of unpublished cave science theses, sets of documents from caving organisations, International Congress Proceedings, expedition reports, DVDs, etc. We also have an increasing number of archive items: log books, photographic collections, etc. and have recently received a donation of a number of cave surveys of varying vintage to add to our existing collection, which already runs to well over 1000.*

*We are gradually integrating the John Beck collection into the Library holdings and this includes probably yet a further 1000 cave surveys, as well as journals and books. The Doug Nash collection of items of mining historical interest has been passed to the Peak District Mines Historical Society or, in the case of original records, to the Derbyshire Record Office.*

*In order to house all this we have increased our shelf length from its original 70m (when BCL was "the BCRA Library") to 250m, the maximum we can fit in the space currently available at Glutton Bridge, and we also now have 6 map chests holding surveys and maps as well as 2 cupboards and 4 filing cabinets.*

*We receive regular donations of books, journals, surveys and other material and, where these are duplicates of our own holdings, we try to pass them on to other caving libraries or else to the general caving public by “lucky dip” at caving events, the proceeds from which are spent on library acquisitions. (The Lucky Dip at Eurospeleo2016 raised over £400, much of it from our foreign visitors; some overseas Librarians were particularly pleased to find we could supply items from their country which they did not have themselves.)*

*More recently we have acquired some archive material from the late Robert Leakey, though this was fragmentary and unsorted, and we are grateful to Andy Chapman for going through this for us and creating a preliminary catalogue.*

### ***The Library On-line***

*BCL has an increasing on-line presence, firstly with the on-line catalogue and bibliography, which is maintained by Martin Laverty from update records from the Librarian and me, which are emailed on to him.*

*John Gardner has steadily increased the holdings of the very popular on-line Audio Archive, comprising over 30 hours of fascinating interviews with cavers past and present. John is also responsible for the BCRA Archives, a collection of digitised archive material, which is also gradually being added to. More recently he has created and maintains an on-line Register of Caving Collections, allowing researchers to track down not only BCL's and BCRA's archives, but also various collections of interest to cavers available on-line or, in some cases, as collections of log books, documents, etc. held by museums or other libraries. Where possible there are links to other online collections, including the BSA/Eli Simpson archives held by BGS.*

*All these facilities are accessible via the Library website: [caving-library.org.uk](http://caving-library.org.uk)*

### ***Where we are now***

*The British Caving Library now has a far higher profile and is far more part of the mainstream of the British caving world than ever before. We have an international presence, contributing to the UIS Informatics Commission Publications Exchange Working Group. An expression of faith in our perceived permanence is that a Derbyshire caving club last year transferred their entire Library to us. The Library Facebook page, set up by the Librarian, now has over 900 followers, including a number from abroad - that means over 900 people in the caving world who are actively interested in what we are doing.*

### ***Supplement to Library Report***

#### ***BCA FUNDING OF THE BRITISH CAVING LIBRARY***

*The British Caving Library (BCL) has evolved from the BCRA Library, which from 1980 had been hosted free of charge in the Local Studies Section of the Derbyshire County Library in Matlock. The shelf length space at Matlock was around 70m, located in a back room with no space to work so that items requested had to be brought out into the main L. S. Library. There was only a printed catalogue, the most recent being dated 2003; the Matlock Library was not open at weekends and parking was difficult.*

*The then BCRA Librarian, Roy Paulson, had not alerted BCRA Council to lack of space to shelve new items at Matlock but had simply kept these, unsorted and un-catalogued at his home. Following his*

death in 2007 all this material was removed from his house and had to be placed in 2 x 150 sq. ft. rooms in a storage facility at a cost of around £3800 a year. No access for research was possible and there was no way of cataloguing this excess material.

BCRA decided in 2008 to pay a professional Librarian to begin to sort out the Library and, since BCRA has no premises of its own, a place had to be found where it could be worked on - the site chosen was the 1000 sq. ft. room at Glutton Bridge. At first BCRA paid a Librarian and an Assistant Librarian to work part time but this was reduced in 2010 to the present arrangement of a Library Assistant paid to work one day a week. Also in 2010 BCRA was asked to remove its Library from Matlock so this had to be moved to Glutton Bridge, consolidating the Library on one site. Most of the equipment, storage and computer facilities now in use have been donated or bought second hand, though most of the actual shelving had to be purchased new and up to date software was bought. A great many of the incoming publications are donated to the Library or received by exchanges but some new publications are bought.

The Library now has a secure base, accessible to cavers on request and with facilities for dealing with enquiries by email and, although volunteers do a great deal of work, it has a paid Library Assistant to provide continuity.

BCRA itself did not have an income stream which could support the necessary expenditure to maintain and run the Library. Hence in 2009, following the production of a Business Plan for the Library, BCA offered a grant of £10,000 p.a. for the upkeep of the Library, now designated as the British Caving Library, with its facilities available to all UK cavers. Any expenditure over and above this grant is met by BCRA.

As an example, expenditure for 2016 was:

£ 4,800	Rent p.a. Glutton Bridge (includes lighting, heating, rates, security system and small kitchen)
£ 500	Broadband/WiFi and phone
£ 3,200	Library Assistant
£ 1,200	Approx. cost of BCRA exchange publications sent to Libraries abroad in exchange for foreign publications
£ 370	General expenses (printer inks, stationery, etc.)
£ 247	Publications bought
£10,317	

In addition, a total of £1719 had to be spent during 2016 (+ £567 in 2015), on temporary storage of the John Beck legacy (comprising thousands of publications, maps and surveys), while new shelving was bought for the Library and changes made to the layout to enable this to be installed.

J.E.Potts  
10 June 2017

JP commented that the report is also on UK caving and as some people didn't understand how it was funded, she had produced a supplement explaining how much money the BCA contributes and where it goes, see above.

There were no comments. TA proposed and IW seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

## **20. Child Protection (Acting): Bob Mehew**

*Following a comment at the last AGM I raised a question over the updating the existing Child Protection policy and guidance. (Notable omissions include no substantial reference to vulnerable adults and the value of friends of family being able to step around the otherwise onerous demands of child protection.) As I had no responses, and the in the light of other demands on my time, I have left the policy alone for the time being.*

There were no comments. LW proposed and TA seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

## **21. Constituent Bodies, Regional Council etc.**

It was noted that no written reports had been submitted. AB verbally reported that CSCC had another quiet year. Some access issues had arisen and dealt with by CSCC's Conservation and Access Officer. He reported that negotiations had also just started with Longleat Estate over access in Cheddar George. Although CSCC had updated its constitution, it remained yet to be implemented owing to a failure to obtain a quorum at several General Meetings.

There were no comments. RW proposed and LW seconded that the report be accepted. It was accepted without comment.

## **22. Elections**

### **22.1 Treasurer (currently Robin Weare acting – no nominations received by the deadline)**

GM proposed that RW be co-opted as Treasurer. RW stated that he was not prepared to stand. He was prepared to discuss in the Council meeting continuing some of the Treasurer's functions. AE expressed his appreciation of RW's efforts during the past year under the difficult circumstances. The matter was left to the council meeting.

### **22.2 Equipment Officer (currently Nick Williams – no nominations received by the deadline)**

AE informed the AGM that NW had said that he would stand down. NW had indicated he had some ideas on a possible replacement but he had not approached them as yet. The post was left vacant.

### **22.3 Publications & Information Officer (currently Les Williams – no nominations received by the deadline)**

LW offered to stand again. RW proposed and JP seconded LW to the post. LW was duly elected.

### **22.4 Club Representatives (Two – currently David Cooke and Faye Litherland – no nominations received by the deadline)**

DC indicated he was prepared to stand again. LW proposed and GM seconded DC to the post. SB announced that a written communication had been received from SWCC proposing Bernie Woodley and which had been seconded by FoDCCAG. Both persons were duly elected.

### **22.5 Individual Representatives (Two – currently Bernie Woodley & vacant – no nominations received by the deadline)**

AE stated that 2 volunteers were required. RW commented that he would like to see younger people coming in and getting involved in the management of BCA. Questions were raised as to what was involved in the positions. RW explained that they would be expected to turn up to the four Council meetings and contribute to debates as an absolute but also be aware of what is going on and comment. He gave DC as an example as an individual representative who also does a lot of work for BCA behind the scenes. LW commented that the role, like the club representative was to provide a voice of individual members. AE also noted that the role should improve communications between BCA and individual members and was one route by which BCA hoped to avoid accusations of being remote from membership. AH noted that it would be of an advantage to have some female representation given the existing male bias in Council. LW noted that expenses are paid for attending Council meetings.

MR and WB volunteered to become individual representatives. LW proposed and TS seconded MR to the post and TA proposed and RW seconded WB to the other post. Both persons were duly elected.

## **22. Proposal to establish BCA QMC Working Party**

The proposal:

***That a working party called “the BCA Qualifications Management Committee” be established to develop the BCA training awards and the current Training Committee be henceforth solely responsible for recreational training.  
Proposed by N Williams, seconded by TBC***

RW spoke to the motion stating that he would second it. It was noted that the constitution only gave the power to set up a Working Party to Council. BM proposed an amendment that the first word “That” be replaced by “This meeting instructs Council to set up”. RW indicated that NW had previously agreed to this amendment and RW also accepted it.

The amendment motion was thus:

***This meeting instructs Council to set up a working party called “the BCA Qualifications Management Committee” be established to develop the BCA training awards and the current Training Committee be henceforth solely responsible for recreational training.***

In response to a query, it was confirmed that the Terms of Reference would be set by Council. TA asked if GM as Chair of QMC and NB as Training Officer accepted this motion. Both indicated they were. It was also confirmed that this motion was not a constitutional change and thus would only require a simple 50% majority in both Houses (of Individuals and of Groups, namely clubs, national bodies and regional caving councils).

The meeting went to a vote on the amended motion:

***This meeting instructs Council to set up a working party called “the BCA Qualifications Management Committee” be established to develop the BCA training awards and the current Training Committee be henceforth solely responsible for recreational training.***

No votes were made against the motion or abstaining from it in both Houses.

Result of Vote

Individuals – Unanimously in favour

Groups – Unanimously in favour

The amended motion was therefore passed.

### **23. Procedural motions No 1 – Postal Ballots**

**The Proposal:**

**Part 1 - “That this meeting agrees that each debate and vote on each proposed motion (including any amendments) to change a feature of the constitution will also require a subsequent motion confirming that the agreed changes are of sufficient value to warrant the cost of a postal ballot. And that it notes each such motion will be subject to the constitutional requirement that a proposed constitutional amendment shall be taken as succeeding if a 70% majority of votes cast for the motion is obtained in each House, otherwise the motion shall fail. And that it agrees that the said subsequent motion only requires a simple majority in both Houses to pass so that for those successful motions to be taken as motions passed by this General Meeting as motions to change the constitution”.**

**Part 2 - “That this meeting confirms the successful motions to change features of the constitution are of sufficient value to warrant the cost of a postal ballot and hence are to be taken as motions passed by this General Meeting as motions to change the constitution and that the Executive is instructed to proceed to take those said successful motions to a postal ballot”.**

#### **Proposed by BM Seconded by TBC**

BM said that this long-winded motion was about ensuring that the postal ballot was only undertaken if there were substantial motions worthy of incurring the expense of the ballot. He had been advised of an amendment which simplified his two part proposal to:

“On completion of voting on the constitutional changes, the meeting will decide whether it is worth going to a postal ballot or not”.

BM was of the view that whilst this amendment was not legally water tight, if the meeting was satisfied as to its intent, he would happily accept the amendment. The question was raised if the procedural motion was changing the way the constitution worked. BM responded that his long proposal sought to step around that accusation. SF raised a concern that it wasn't clear what they are voting on and possibility that BCA will be a laughing stock if they vote to change to constitution and then don't go to a postal ballot or vote on something and then not change it. BM commented that one reason for making the proposal was to ensure it was the meeting that made this decision and not the Chair. RW commented that the amendments being put forward could be placed into two groups. One group contained the substantive motions remitted from last year's AGM and the other group contained housekeeping type motions to update the constitution. If neither of the substantive motions passed, then the other group were not of sufficient value to warrant a postal ballot. LW suggested that a better way of dealing with this problem was to deal with the two substantive motions and then if they fail, withdraw the other group. In response to a query, the Exec indicated they were happy to withdraw the motions in the other group if such a position arose. BM then withdrew his motion.

### **24. Procedural Motion No 2**

### The Proposal:

**“That this meeting agrees to debate the motions related to not needing to do anything to, deleting or changing the first sentence of sub section 4.6 in order to ensure the merits and negative aspects of each motion are understood by the meeting and then followed by a series of debates when each motion is considered until one is successful. And that the order for taking those motions is set by the random draw of slips of paper from a container where each slip of paper contains an abbreviated version the motion. And that the meeting recognises that a motion leaving the sentence as it is only requires a simple majority in each house whilst any motion changing the words in the constitution will require a 70% majority in each house.”**

### **Proposed by BM Seconded by TBC**

BM informed the meeting that this procedural motion was designed to deal with the problem that one of the significant proposals to change the constitution had several proposals. He had been advised of an amendment which simplified his proposal to:

Where there are several alternative proposals to an item, a simple majority vote on the items will be taken and the one with the most votes be taken forward.

He accepted the amendment and RW seconded the motion which now stood as

**Where there are several alternative proposals to an item, a simple majority vote on the items will be taken and the one with the most votes be taken forward.**

### **Proposed by BM Seconded by RW**

SF sought clarification on what was meant by the phrase “simple majority vote”. After some discussion, the meeting accepted that the phrase meant that all representatives of both the House of Individuals and the House of Groups at this meeting would vote together as one body by indicating their preference for an alternative. The alternative with the most votes would then be taken forward for the vote in accord with the requirements for a constitutional amendment.

AE confirmed that the motion only required a simple 50% majority in each house to succeed. A question was put as to whether if successful, this motion then set the procedure for all General Meetings. It was agreed that the motion if successful would only apply to this meeting. The meeting went to a vote on the amended motion:

**Where there are several alternative proposals to an item, a simple majority vote on the items will be taken and the one with the most votes be taken forward.**

The votes recorded were as follows:

Individual members: 35 For. 2 Against. 1 Abstention.

Group members: 13 For. 2 Against. 4 Abstentions.

The amended motion was therefore passed.

## 25. Constitutional Items / Changes – Section 4.6

### Part a

#### The Proposal:

**That this general meeting confirms there is no impediment in the constitution to prevent the BCA campaigning for the Countryside and Rights of Way Act to apply to caving.**

**Proposed by TA Seconded by DCA**

RW stated that this was not a constitutional motion so therefore just needed a simple 50% majority in both houses.

TA introduced the motion by noting that Section 13.1 of the constitution provided that “A General Meeting of the Association shall be the final interpreter of this constitution.”. He considered that the poll conducted in 2014 had given BCA a clear steer on campaigning to get CROW to apply to caving. However certain people had used the ambiguous first sentence in Section 4.6 of the constitution to block the campaign. It had been decided by Council three years ago that it was not an impediment and subsequently agreed at an AGM two years ago that campaigning could proceed. He felt that as a first step, the AGM should confirm that the words in Section 4.6 should not act a block to the campaign.

RW asked what effect would passing this motion have on the constitution and the impact if subsequent changes were made to Section 4.6. TA noted that the motion would override claims made by the few and permit campaigning to proceed. SF commented that if subsequent changes to Section 4.6 were passed by this meeting, then they would not take effect until a successful postal ballot had confirmed the change to the constitution. BM supported this interpretation.

TA proposed that the meeting vote on the motion:

**That this general meeting confirms there is no impediment in the constitution to prevent the BCA campaigning for the Countryside and Rights of Way Act to apply to caving.**

The votes recorded were as follows:

Individual members: 34 For. 1 Against. 1 Abstention.

Group members: 16 For. 3 Against. 1 Abstention.

The amended motion was therefore passed.

### Part b

#### The Proposals:

**Alternative a) The first line of item 4.6 that reads “That the owners and tenants of property containing caves have the right to grant or withhold access” be deleted and replaced with “That the legal right to control access to and within the cave held by a holder of that right shall be respected”.**

**Proposed by Bob Mehew, Seconded by BCA Executive.**

**Alternative b) “This motion proposes that the first sentence of Section 4.6 of the BCA constitution be removed.”**

**Proposed by Tim Allen, Seconded by DCA.**

**Alternative c) “This motion proposes that the first sentence of Section 4.6 of the BCA constitution be removed. (For clarity this means that the sentence should be removed and not replaced by a similar sentence such as (a) or (b) of Proposal 1 as presented to the BCA council meeting on 25th March 2017. In fact, if this motion is supported then no further amendments should be made to section 4.6 of the BCA constitution at this General Meeting)”**

**Proposed by Tim Allen, Seconded by TBC.**

BM said he would leave TA to amplify on the reason for the two alternatives but reminded the meeting that if his proposal was passed, then Part c of this agenda item was also needed to be passed otherwise the same difficulty remained.

TA stated that he was withdrawing alternative c) since there was clearly now no intent to insert a new sentence if his simple deletion motion passed. The concern had arisen following an overheard comment at the March Council meeting.

TA read out his remaining proposal alternative b). TA stated that in his opinion the first sentence of Section 4.6 had been used to thwart the will of BCA membership. His motion was a solution to a problem that the BCA has brought on itself by pandering to those who opposed the CRoW campaign. Its use to oppose the CRoW campaign threatens to undermine the credibility of BCA to deliver on the promises made in the poll. He put forward this simple motion that everyone can understand. It makes the constitution for cavers rather than land owners. In his opinion, the removal of the sentence was not disrespectful to landowners, rather it reflected that BCA was for cavers not land owners. In addition, the sentence was misleading and muddled. It clearly failed to take account of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act and the wording was so muddled as to give rise to potential claims of rights by land owners and others which had no legal basis. TA was concerned that BM’s proposal alternative a) was complicated and could well be misconstrued.

AE stated that whilst wanting to remain impartial, he did want to draw the meeting’s attention to either motion required a 70% majority in the postal ballot. He was concerned that TA’s alternative b) might not achieve that threshold.

JP agreed that the first sentence needs to go and could see where BM coming from, but the section of the constitution is about what caving bodies do. If BM motion is passed then she would like it to be at the end of section 4.6.

TA stated that section 4 covers guiding principles for the organisation and that continuing to say one such principle is to respect land owner’s rights is going to end in further disputes. Furthermore, it doesn’t say that individual cavers have rights to challenge land owners. The proposal under alternative a) would lead to claims that respecting land owners rights should be put above respecting cavers’ rights. BCA was a caving organisation representing cavers, not land owners.

LW asked if BM would accept JP suggestion. BM agreed to accept an amendment so the amended proposal alternative a) became:

The first line of item 4.6 that reads “That the owners and tenants of property containing caves have the right to grant or withhold access” be deleted and replaced at the end of the

sub section with “That the legal right to control access to and within the cave held by a holder of that right shall be respected”.

Proposed by Bob Mehew, Seconded by BCA Executive.

SF noted that the existing sentence could create a situation where an Access Controlling Body made an agreement with a land owner when the landowner had at best a disputed right of control over access. The existing sentence needed a change to ensure clarity or else removing to avoid the problem.

DC noted that the sentence did usefully show respect for land owners when cavers were trying to negotiate rights of access and were attempting to gain the trust and respect of land owners. A question was asked as to how many land owners read the BCA’s constitution. SB reported that as a land owner he certainly would do so and would expect any land agent working on behalf of a land owner to also do so. He was concerned that the removals of the sentence would be an impediment to relations with land owners.

The meeting asked for the whole sub section 4.6 to be read out as amended by BM’s alternative a). BM said that sub section 4.6 if amended by his proposed alternative a) would be as follows:

***Where caving bodies have control of access delegated to them by the owners, such access should be obtained and granted as freely as possible for all responsible cavers. Within the terms of those agreements. When obliged to make new agreements the appropriate body should endeavour to be sure that this freedom is maintained or improved. That the legal right to control access to and within the cave held by a holder of that right shall be respected”.***

The meeting agreed to go to a simple majority vote as per item 24 passed motion above.

The alternative motions put forward for voting were:

**BM’s Alternative a) The first line of item 4.6 that reads “That the owners and tenants of property containing caves have the right to grant or withhold access” be deleted and replaced at the end of the sub section with “That the legal right to control access to and within the cave held by a holder of that right shall be respected”.**

**TA’s Alternative b) This motion proposes that the first sentence of Section 4.6 of the BCA constitution be removed.**

The votes recorded were as follows:

In favour of BM’s motion alternative a): 8

In favour of TA’s motion alternative b): 38

TA’s alternative b) therefore was carried forward.

The meeting was reminded that the next vote required a majority of 70% in both Houses in order for it to then go forward to a postal ballot.

The motion put forward was:

**“This motion proposes that the first sentence of Section 4.6 of the BCA constitution be removed.”**

**Proposed by Tim Allen, Seconded by DCA.**

The votes recorded were as follows:

Individual members: 42 For. 3 Against. 0 Abstentions. 93% majority of those voting

Group members: 17 For. 3 Against. 0 Abstentions. 85% majority of those voting

The motion was passed.

AE noted that this motion would now go forward to a postal ballot. Given this was one of the two substantive motions, the other set of proposals to amend the constitution could also go forward for debate.

#### **Part c**

**The proposal:**

**“Notwithstanding any limitations perceived or otherwise (contained within the constitution) related to a current piece of legislation, that limitation does not preclude the British Caving Association from campaigning to change that piece of legislation, subject to agreement having been obtained from the National Council of the BCA”.**  
**Proposed BM Seconded by TBC**

BM asked if the sense of the meeting was there was no need for this motion. The meeting agreed so BM withdrew the proposal.

#### **26. Constitutional Items/Changes – Section 5.1B**

**The proposal:**

**“Constitutionally established National Bodies (hereinafter referred to as Constituent Bodies); constitutionally established caving, mining and other related Clubs; constitutionally established Regional Caving Councils; Cave Rescue Organisations and Access Controlling Bodies, hereinafter known as Group Members when referred to collectively”.**  
**Proposed and seconded by BCA Executive.**

RW indicated that following discussions which had clarified the intent of the existing wording, the Executive now withdrew this agenda item.

#### **27. Constitutional Items/Changes – Section 6.1**

**The proposal:**

**“The Association shall have the following officers: a Council Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer together with the Chairmen of the Standing Committee (Section 7), who shall be elected from the membership of the Association at an Annual General Meeting, by a show of hands of those present who are eligible to vote. Here the two-house voting system outlined in sub section 8.9 will not apply. Each officer shall serve for a term of three years from the AGM. One third of Officer’s posts in turn shall be eligible for election or re-election each year and those elected shall serve for a term of three years from the AGM”.**  
**Proposed and seconded by BCA Executive**

RW stated that this proposal came about because of a concern that when electing officers, the two House system could result in a split situation with one House voting for and the other voting against an Officer which meant the Officer was not elected. The proposal had inserted the sentence "Here the two-house voting system outlined in sub section 8.9 will not apply." to clarify that it did not apply and that a simple majority vote was only required to elect an officer.

BM stated that this motion and the following motion under agenda item 28 omitted other parts of the constitution where similar problem could arise. He therefore proposed an amendment with the addition of another sentence, namely:

The sentence "Here the two-house voting system outlined in sub section 8.9 will not apply." also be added at the appropriate point in sub sections 5.3, 5.4, 5.6, 6.3 & 6.15.

In response to a query from LW, BM stated that he had included sub section 6.3, the subject of the proposal in the next agenda item 28 so as to reduce the need for voting. The Executive accepted the amendment.

The amended motion is:

**[Section 6.1] shall read The Association shall have the following officers: a Council Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer together with the Chairmen of the Standing Committee (Section 7), who shall be elected from the membership of the Association at an Annual General Meeting, by a show of hands of those present who are eligible to vote. Here the two-house voting system outlined in sub section 8.9 will not apply. Each officer shall serve for a term of three years from the AGM. One third of Officer's posts in turn shall be eligible for election or re-election each year and those elected shall serve for a term of three years from the AGM". The sentence "Here the two-house voting system outlined in sub section 8.9 will not apply." also be added at the appropriate point in sub sections 5.3, 5.4, 5.6, 6.3 & 6.15.**  
**Proposed and seconded by BCA Executive**

The votes recorded were as follows:

Individual members: 44 For. 0 Against. 2 Abstentions. 96% majority of those voting

Group members: 16 For. 0 Against. 4 Abstentions. 80% majority of those voting

The motion was passed.

AE noted that this motion would now go forward to a postal ballot.

## **28. Constitutional Items / Changes – Section 6.3**

**The proposal:**

**"Representatives from the classes of Individual and Group Membership shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting, by a show of hands of those present who are eligible to vote. Only Individual and Honorary Members shall vote in the election of an Individual Member's Representative and only Group Members who are not entitled to appoint a representative to Council under sub section 6.4 shall vote in the election for a Group Membership Representative. Each representative shall serve for a term of two years from the AGM. Here, the two-house system outlined in sub section 8.9 will not apply".**

**Proposed and seconded by BCA Executive.**

RW confirmed that this agenda item is now covered by the motion passed under agenda item 27 and the Executive therefore withdrew it.

## 29. Constitutional Items / Changes – Section 6.15

The proposal:

**“In sub section 6.15 the words *“The post of President shall run for a period of one year from the Annual General Meeting”* be amended to *“The post of President shall run until a new President is elected”*.”**

**Proposed and seconded by BCA Executive.**

RW stated that this had arisen because BCA had forgotten to re-elect its President last year. The Executive were proposing to allow the President to remain in office until replaced. AB suggested that it was unclear how the exiting President would be stood down or how BCA could ease out a President who became a liability. SF asked if members could elect a President. RW suggested that members could make suggestions for Council to consider.

The Executive withdrew the motion.

## 30. Constitutional Items / Changes – Section 8.16

The proposals:

**Alternative a) “An individual or Honorary member (the 'voter') who is eligible to vote at a General Meeting may choose to appoint a proxy to vote for them. This proxy (the 'nominee') must be another individual or Honorary member who is also eligible to vote. The form of proxy, determined by National Council, will be provided with the notice of the meeting. The voter must provide the completed form of proxy to the Recorder at least 7 days before the relevant meeting for any General Meeting excepting an Emergency General Meeting where 48 hours shall be sufficient. Voters may indicate how they wish their nominee to vote or allow their nominee discretion. The maximum number of voters may be represented by each individual nominee is two. Proxy voting is not available to Group Members”**

**Proposed and Seconded by BCA Executive.**

**Alternative b) “An Individual or Honorary member (the 'voter') who is eligible to vote at a General Meeting may choose to appoint a proxy to vote for them. This proxy (the 'nominee') must be another Individual or Honorary member who is also eligible to vote. The form of proxy, determined by National Council, will be provided with the notice of the meeting. The voter must provide the completed form of proxy to the recorder at least 7 days prior to a General Meeting, excepting an Emergency General Meeting where 48 hours notice will suffice. Voters may indicate how they wish their nominee to vote or allow their nominee discretion. Council is empowered to limit the number of voters who may be represented by each individual nominee to as few as two, excepting the Chair who shall not hold any proxy votes at all”**

**Proposed by Dave Tyson, Seconded by TBC**

**Alternative c) “In the interests of simplification of the Constitution and procedures at General Meetings, all references to proxy voting should be removed from the Association’s Constitution”.**

**Proposed by Nick Williams, Seconded by TBC**

RW announced that he had received confirmation from DT and NW that they withdrew their alternative proposals. So only alternative a) remained.

LW asked if this was a constitutional amendment. It was confirmed that the proposal would create a new sub section 8.16.

JP stated it is not clear why a proxy voted is needed at a general meeting when an amendment to the constitution is subject to a postal vote anyway. BM noted that proxy voting would cover all motions and not just constitutional amendments which required postal ballots. JP also expressed concern about proxy voting in cases where the proposal was amended. She also reminded the meeting of a time when DCA had an individual turn up to one meeting with so many votes that he outvoted the rest of the meeting. As a consequence DCA changed its constitution to ensure that it could not happen again.

BM proposed that the meeting vote on the motion:

**Alternative a) “An individual or Honorary member (the 'voter') who is eligible to vote at a General Meeting may choose to appoint a proxy to vote for them. This proxy (the 'nominee') must be another individual or Honorary member who is also eligible to vote. The form of proxy, determined by National Council, will be provided with the notice of the meeting. The voter must provide the completed form of proxy to the Recorder at least 7 days before the relevant meeting for any General Meeting excepting an Emergency General Meeting where 48 hours shall be sufficient. Voters may indicate how they wish their nominee to vote or allow their nominee discretion. The maximum number of voters may be represented by each individual nominee is two. Proxy voting is not available to Group Members”**  
**Proposed and Seconded by BCA Executive.**

The votes recorded were as follows:

Individual members: 32 For. 11 Against. 1 Abstention. 73% majority of those voting.

Group members: 10 For. 7 Against. 3 Abstentions. 50% majority of those voting.

The motion failed as it did not achieve the 70% threshold in both Houses.

TA commented that whilst the proposal had been a step in the direction of better engagement between BCA and its members, there would have remained a significant gap and BCA needed to think of better ways to ensure the engagement was effective.

### **31. Constitutional Items/Changes – Section 9.1**

The proposal:

**“A constitutional amendment adopted by a General Meeting will require ratification by a ballot”.**  
**Proposed and seconded by BCA Executive**

RW stated that the proposal did not stop the use of postal balloting, it was aimed at increasing the ways of balloting. He accepted that the motion needed a correction to exclude the word postal from the title of Section 9.AE stated it goes some way to answer TA’s point just made. BM stated that the definition of postal ballot in Section 13.3 which included online balloting made this motion

unnecessary. He was therefore against this motion. An amendment to the motion was proposed and accepted by the Executive that:  
The words “and the word postal be deleted from the title of Section 9” be added to the motion.

So the amended motion became

**“[Section 9.1] A constitutional amendment adopted by a General Meeting will require ratification by a ballot” and the word postal be deleted from the title of Section 9.  
Proposed and seconded by BCA Executive**

TR noted that as a consequence of this motion, the definition of postal ballot in sub section 13.3 would not be required.

The votes recorded were as follows:

Individual members: 43 For. 0 Against. 1 Abstention. 98% majority of those voting.  
Group in favour: 20 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions. 100% majority of those voting.

The motion was passed.

AE noted that this motion would now go forward to a postal ballot.

## **32. Constitutional Items/Changes – Section 9.2**

The proposal is that the new section 9.2 shall be:

**“The General Meeting may refer any other successful motion that it deems appropriate, for ratification by a ballot. The General Meeting shall instruct the Executive to arrange such a ballot and shall specify any wording for the ratification of the motion and associated material, as the General Meeting considers necessary. The Executive may add additional associated material as it thinks fit. The ballot shall be held as soon as is reasonably practicable after the General Meeting. The ballot will normally be conducted as an online ballot and if so shall be issued to all members entitled to vote with whom BCA may legitimately communicate by e-mail or any other appropriate means. National Council shall ensure sufficient time is given from the dispatch of the information before the closing date, normally one month or more, for receipt of returns. The counting of the votes shall be conducted as for a General Meeting”.**

**Proposed and seconded by BCA Executive**

RW indicated that the proposal would change the existing words within the sub section relating to a postal ballot (*The postal ballot shall be held as soon as is reasonably practicable after the General Meeting. The postal ballot shall be issued to all members entitled to vote. Thirty days shall be given from the dispatch of the papers to the closing date for receipt of returns.*) to an online ballot (*The ballot will normally be conducted as an online ballot and if so shall be issued to all members entitled to vote with whom BCA may legitimately communicate by e-mail or any other appropriate means. National Council shall ensure sufficient time is given from the dispatch of the information before the closing date, normally one month or more, for receipt of returns.*). He stated that the aim of the proposal was to increase participation and also save money. It was accepted that some members would not have the means to use on line systems and emphasised that the proposal allowed for the continuation of postal ballots.

AB expressed a concern that the way the motion was worded was alienating people who want to use a postal ballot option. The motion also gave no clarification on how it would be impartial or counted. AB suggested that Council should be tasked with coming up with a more detailed proposal.

RW stated that the motion was a replication of how the current system works and noted that there is nothing in the current constitution on the conduct of a ballot about impartiality or counting. That was left to the sense and honour of Council and the Executive. The motion was a reflection of things changing. An on line ballot would be easier and a better way of doing it. RW emphasised that the motion had no restriction to say postal ballot can't be used.

LW suggested the detail of implementing a ballot should be left to the Executive and that if written information was required, then the best place for it was the Manual of Operations. SF suggested both the existing sub section and proposed replacement stated with the same thing and that the vote could either be a "simple majority vote" as agreed back in agenda item 24 or else a two House vote. BM explained that sub section 8.9 of the constitution specified that any vote was a two House vote save where the constitution said otherwise as per the election of officer as discussed under agenda item 27. Sub section 8.9 allowed the General meeting to send to a postal ballot other matters. If such matters were sent to a postal ballot, then the threshold for passing would be 50% in each House. (A threshold of 70% was for changes to the constitution.)

BM went on to propose that the motion be amended by the addition of  
"And that the definition of postal ballot contained in sub section 13.3 be deleted".

The Executive accepted the amendment so the amended motion becomes:

**"The new section 9.2 shall be: The General Meeting may refer any other successful motion that it deems appropriate, for ratification by a ballot. The General Meeting shall instruct the Executive to arrange such a ballot and shall specify any wording for the ratification of the motion and associated material, as the General Meeting considers necessary. The Executive may add additional associated material as it thinks fit. The ballot shall be held as soon as is reasonably practicable after the General Meeting. The ballot will normally be conducted as an online ballot and if so shall be issued to all members entitled to vote with whom BCA may legitimately communicate by e-mail or any other appropriate means. National Council shall ensure sufficient time is given from the dispatch of the information before the closing date, normally one month or more, for receipt of returns. The counting of the votes shall be conducted as for a General Meeting".**

**And that the definition of postal ballot contained in sub section 13.3 be deleted.  
Proposed and seconded by BCA Executive**

The votes recorded were as follows:

Individual members: 44 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions. 100% majority of those voting.  
Group members: 18 For. 1 Against. 0 Abstentions. 95% majority of those voting.

The motion was passed.

AE noted that this motion would now go forward to a postal ballot.

### **33. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

The appointment was remitted to Council.

### **34. Date of Annual General Meeting for 2018**

AE announced that the date was provisionally set for the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at a venue to be confirmed.

### **35. Any Other Business notified in advance to the Chairman**

#### **35.1 Election of a President**

DC asked if we should elect president. RW proposed Mick Day and JP seconded the proposal. The question was raised as to whether Mick Day had given his permission. The meeting expressed it was in favour of the idea, subject to Mick Day's permission. *(Post meeting note – Mick Day has given his agreement and thus is President of BCA for another year.)*

#### **35.2 Review of the Constitution**

TA stated that he had not notified the Chair in advance but the issue of reviewing BCA's constitution was brought up a year ago. He considered there was a need to set in progress a thorough review of the constitution rather than picking bits out. There is scope for a review of the whole thing with a view to making it more modern and engaging with its membership. He therefore proposed a simple motion That *"This general meeting recommends a working party be established by the October Council meeting to begin a long term review of the entire constitution and report back to Council and General meetings as appropriate"*. He noted that the CNCC had conducted a review of their constitution with a working party which covered both house keeping and other changes. Because of the process of keeping that Council informed, it was universally accepted and there was no controversy in the resultant change of their constitution.

AE said has a great deal of sympathy with the idea and the Executive have gone through the constitution. AE noted that although some of the changes may seem minor, there are some important things to go to a postal ballot. AE felt that it will give a better place for the future though this may be looked at when the results of the postal ballot were returned.

LW raised a concern about the time scale of such a working party. DC foresaw a major update would result from such work. RW expressed concern over the predictable large amount of effort which would be required to achieve an output within 12 months. TA noted that the proposal did not have a time limit attached to it, rather it allowed the work to take the time that was needed to ensure agreement as achieved. It would also reduce the burden on the Executive by placing it on a working party.

TA withdrew the proposal. AE thanks TA for the suggestion.

The AGM closed at 13:23

# **BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION**

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Financial Statements for the Year  
Ended 31 December 2016

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BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	2016	2015
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions	99,167	105,421
Association	2,742	3,069
Training Services	15,194	15,461
Publications & Information	0	0
Meetings & Conference	0	0
Web Services	1,252	1,212
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>118,355</b>	<b>125,163</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Subscription	56,785	55,654
Association	7,836	3,309
Conservation & Access	2,045	120
Training Services	16,480	20,625
Caver Training	500	405
Publications & Information	237	424
Equipment & Techniques	3,597	4,040
Youth Development	152	104
Meetings & Conferences	126	639
Web Services	1,540	1,608
Regional Caving Councils	3,252	3,754
International	0	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>92,550</b>	<b>90,682</b>
<b>CHARITABLE DONATIONS</b>		
British Cave Research Association for British Caving Library	10,000	10,000
Ghar Parau Foundation for Expedition Programme	5,000	5,000
<b><u>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>10,805</u></b>	<b><u>19,481</u></b>
<b>TAX</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR AFTER TAX</u></b>	<b><u>10,805</u></b>	<b><u>19,481</u></b>

BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

	2016	2015
	£	£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors and Prepayments	603	192
Balances at Bank and cash in hand	244,826	231,006
	<u>245,429</u>	<u>231,198</u>
<b>LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Creditors and Accruals payable within one year	30,663	32,237
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>214,766</u>	<u>198,961</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY RESERVES :</b>		
General Reserve		
Balance brought forward	118,961	114,480
Speleology provision (Note 3)	5,000	0
Surplus for year	<u>10,805</u>	<u>19,481</u>
	134,766	133,961
less transfer to Insurance Reserve	<u>0</u>	<u>15,000</u>
	134,766	118,961
Insurance Reserve	80,000	80,000
<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<u>214,766</u>	<u>198,961</u>

Approved on behalf of the Executive Committee

A Eavis, Chairman

5th May 2017  
Date

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

**1 Accounting Policies**

**a) Basis of Accounting**

The accounts have been prepared under historical cost accounting rules

**b) Equipment**

Equipment is charged in the accounts in the year of purchase.

**2 Insurance Reserve**

The Insurance Reserve is held at a level which allows a minimum of two years premiums

**3 Speleology Provision**

A provision for the cost of producing the next edition of Speleology was made in 2014. As it has been decided to discontinue the publication the provision of £5,000 has now been credited to reserves.

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION

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I report on the accounts of the association for the year ended 31 December 2016 which are set out on pages 2 & 3.

Respective  
responsibilities of  
executive committee  
and examiner

As members of the association's executive committee you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; it is my responsibility to examine the accounts and state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent  
examiner's report

The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the association and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as executive committee members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent  
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep proper accounting records or to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name:

Heather Simpson (FCCA)

Address:

Flat E, The Beeches, Welcombe Road, Stratford-upon-Avon.  
CV37 6UJ

Dated:

5 May 2017

BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2016

	2016	2015
	£	£
<b>Subscriptions</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	99,167	105,421
<b>Total</b>	<u>99,167</u>	<u>105,421</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Insurance Premium	38,751	37,182
Employment Expenses	9,033	9,281
General Expenses	3,914	3,297
Refunds, Adj, Unpaid	46	309
BCRA Subscriptions	5,041	5,585
<b>Total</b>	<u>56,785</u>	<u>55,654</u>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<u>42,382</u>	<u>49,767</u>
<b>Association</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Interest received	2,686	2,604
Broker Commission	0	452
Donations, Sundry	56	13
<b>Total</b>	<u>2,742</u>	<u>3,069</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Secretarial & Financial	945	78
Advertising (Descent)	1,986	0
Travel	2,558	2,033
Subscriptions	742	667
Insurance	546	477
Donations	400	0
Webex & Sundries	659	54
<b>Total</b>	<u>7,836</u>	<u>3,309</u>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<u>(5,094)</u>	<u>(240)</u>
<b>Conservation &amp; Access</b>		
<b>Income</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Publications	1,462	0
Travel	25	0
CRoW	558	120
<b>Total</b>	<u>2,045</u>	<u>120</u>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<u>(2,045)</u>	<u>(120)</u>

**Training Services****Income**

LCMLA / CIC Schemes	15,136	15,341
Publications	58	120
<i>Total</i>	<u>15,194</u>	<u>15,461</u>

**Expenditure**

Employment Expenses	8,189	8,524
General Expenses	1,896	3,441
Travel	1,148	1,700
LCMLA/CIC Training	5,147	6,903
Refunds, Adj, Unpaid	100	51
Publications	0	6
<i>Total</i>	<u>16,480</u>	<u>20,625</u>

<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	<u>(1,286)</u>	<u>(5,164)</u>
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**Caver Training****Income**

<i>Total</i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
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**Expenditure**

Recreational Caver Training	500	405
Voluntary Sector Support	0	0
<i>Total</i>	<u>500</u>	<u>405</u>

<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	<u>(500)</u>	<u>(405)</u>
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**Publications & Information****Income**

Publication Sales	0	0
Advertising	0	0
<i>Total</i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

**Expenditure**

Free Leaflets	152	0
Handbook	0	0
Newsletter	0	424
Publications	85	0
<i>Total</i>	<u>237</u>	<u>424</u>

<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	<u>(237)</u>	<u>(424)</u>
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<b>Equipment &amp; Techniques</b>		
<b>Income</b>	<i>Total</i>	
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Secretarial	0	0
Travel	0	564
Anchor programme	2,152	3,476
Rope-Test programme	1,445	0
	<i>Total</i>	
	<u>3,597</u>	<u>4,040</u>
	<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	
	<u>(3,597)</u>	<u>(4,040)</u>
<b>Youth Development</b>		
<b>Income</b>	<i>Total</i>	
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Youth Development	152	104
	<i>Total</i>	
	<u>152</u>	<u>104</u>
	<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	
	<u>(152)</u>	<u>(104)</u>
<b>Meetings &amp; Conferences</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
AGM Weekend	0	0
	<i>Total</i>	
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
AGM Weekend	0	210
Artificial Cave	126	10
Cliff Hanger	0	419
	<i>Total</i>	
	<u>126</u>	<u>639</u>
	<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	
	<u>(126)</u>	<u>(639)</u>
<b>Web Services</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Web Services	1,252	1,212
	<i>Total</i>	
	<u>1,252</u>	<u>1,212</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Web Services	1,540	1,608
	<i>Total</i>	
	<u>1,540</u>	<u>1,608</u>
	<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	
	<u>(288)</u>	<u>(396)</u>

<b>Regional Caving Council Expenditure</b>		
<b>Income</b>	<i>Total</i>	
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
CCC claims	656	277
CNCC claims	311	973
CSCC claims	1,796	1,224
DCA claims	308	1,092
DCUC claims	181	188
<i>Total</i>	<u>3,252</u>	<u>3,754</u>
<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	<u>(3,252)</u>	<u>(3,754)</u>
<b>British Caving Library</b>		
<b>Income</b>	<i>Total</i>	
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Grant	10,000	10,000
<i>Total</i>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>(10,000)</u>
<b>Expedition Programme</b>		
<b>Income</b>	<i>Total</i>	
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Grants to Expeditions	5,000	5,000
<i>Total</i>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>
<b>International</b>		
<b>Income</b>	<i>Total</i>	
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Grants to Reps.	0	0
<i>Total</i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>Total Income</i>	<u>118,355</u>	<u>125,163</u>
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<u>107,550</u>	<u>105,682</u>
<i>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</i>	<u>10,805</u>	<u>19,481</u>
<i>Tax Current Year</i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>Total Surplus / (Deficit) less Tax</i>	<u>10,805</u>	<u>19,481</u>