

British Caving Association

Reports to the 2020 Annual General Meeting



Chairman's Report

It has to be said that this year has been a turbulent one for BCA. We have seen the resignation of over 7 Council Members including two from the Executive, (the Chair and Secretary). If that wasn't enough, Covid-19 had turned our world as we knew it upside down, further exacerbating the BCA problems. This has resulted in the BCA being left broken, dysfunctional and plagued by continual bitter infighting that has been hard to see the back of.

I joined BCA Council over a year ago as I felt enough was enough and that ordinary cavers should get involved to try and move the BCA from this terrible place. My first meeting was the 2019 AGM and was one of complete disbelief with people arguing aggressively over fine points in the Constitution in a hostile environment. While I will never forget it, I hope I will never experience that again! The following Council Meeting also continued in a similar vein.

In late July, at short notice I was parachuted in by the Executive to Chair the first Council Meeting since January due to Covid, held by video (Zoom). Even though much of BCA business had been previously left and many balls had been dropped, the meeting proved to be a reasonable success, with the Zoom platform considerably helping facilitate a more positive meeting style. Shortly after, I found myself co-opted as Chair. Since that time, I have dedicated my time to try and pull the BCA from the desperate place it was in, to get the BCA Council functioning again.

In the 2 months since, I have spent over 250 hours working on BCA matters, such is my commitment to this cause. I have had or attended, over 25 meetings, trying to resolve the conflicts that have dragged our organisation to where we were, and solicit views of

members to where the BCA should be going and how BCA could help the bodies we represent. Some tough decisions have had to be made during this time, and not to the taste of all, but these have been necessary to put a stop to this continual infighting and move forward. I really hope (and ask) that we have finally put this torrid period in the BCA history finally behind us.

While it is very early days, initial signs are good. The Executive has a good team atmosphere and I think we are beginning to function correctly with progressively more and more efficiency. We are very green, none of us have been on Council for longer than 3 years, both Russell and I less than a year. We accept we have and will make mistakes, however we are ordinary cavers driven by the goal of moving the BCA to the respected National Body it should be; recognised by other organisations and government bodies; but also and more importantly, helping our cavers go caving, encourage new people into the sport and prevent our sport from dying.

During this period of infighting our working groups have been left to their own devices, being unable to discuss necessary business at Council, often taking 6 months to be raised and then often electing not to bring it to Council for this reason. As a result we have a very fragmented operation and as the Y&D convenor stated in conversation, "We need a joined up approach". This is paramount for the correct operation of the BCA where we are operating as a team rather than single cells, where we can discuss issues in a respectful manner and come up with a good decision by consensus.

Our operation is hindered by an out of date and not fit for purpose Constitution and Manual of Operations, which is being continually amended in a piecemeal approach. I have committed and now have Council approval to completely review these documents with the mandate that these revised documents will first be approved by Council, for subsequent presentation at the 2021 AGM for ratification, allowing the BCA to move forward with a new modern approach.

Our IT Working Group has also been working very hard to produce a new modern face of the BCA, and one that the BCA would be proud to show the wider public and government bodies, and indeed one which the membership will connect with. Furthermore, new back end systems, such as the membership database, a nominations and proposal system for AGMs, and other routine operations will greatly facilitate the efficiency of the Executive and the running of the organisation, providing far greater transparency.

With the BCA Executive and Council functioning efficiently, the BCA will finally be able to concentrate on the issues we should be looking at, those effecting our sport right now, and ensuring we are doing all we can to support those who are in and facilitate this, e.g. University and Caving clubs, Constituent bodies, and not least the individual membership..

The BCA is currently cash rich, it is right that we use some of this surplus to help in any way we can to support our caving community to ultimately pull us through these unusual Covid times, and ensure we have a strong community when we return to normal times.

My final goal is to attempt to educate our cavers further in all aspects of caving e.g. equipment and techniques, conservation, and also of great importance, Cave Science. From my experience in China, it is no longer acceptable for an expedition to turn up, have a period of fun caving and leave, proper reports with proper scientific content are now expected, and quite rightly too! I believe that we have a big wake-up call coming, in that others have caught up and our reputation as the great British caver, might not be so strong and we need to improve our game. To do this, I will be striving to push BCA to help organising many low cost (if not free) training events in all disciplines to try and facilitate this, and to encourage people into other caving disciplines such as cave science. To achieve this, I call on those groups such as BCRA to help support this and as such support themselves.

In summing up, the BCA recent history has been a torrid one, and one which I hope we now have put in the past and that we can start to move forward. I would like to encourage Council Members now to take a positive stance especially in other meetings, when talking to each other and our membership, to promote the BCA, to indicate that we are changing for the better, and highlight some of the benefits a strong national body brings.

It might be too early to say, and there are many things that may still derail us yet, but perhaps this ancient BCA steam train might have finally got up enough steam to start moving away from this desperate place we have been stuck in, to a new modern era and the progressive respected National Body we should be.

For those of you who have not already climbed aboard, I hope you will do so and join in this journey as everyone has something to offer and BCA will welcome your participation.

Phil Rowsell
Acting Chair

Acting Secretary Report

Back in April in the depths of lockdown, looking over your shoulder in case the cops were going to nick you for travelling in the wrong place, I sat contemplating the grain in the wood lining the walls of the boat I live on wondering what on earth to do. A chance email took me to UK C Forum where I read my predecessor's resignation message as Secretary of BCA. I had met Matt once before at my Club dinner back in November when all was well with the world – we chatted about caving politics and I recounted my years in CNCC and attending NCA bun fights – he seemed a decent chap intent on changing BCA for the better, an honourable quest.

I was immediately surprised and disturbed by what I read and realised that here was someone who may need some help as well as the Association. After mulling the situation over for a day or two and sounding a few things out, with nothing better to do, I emailed Matt with an offer to help out expecting to pick up some “donkey work” on the admin side.

I should have realised when he snapped my hand off just what I was getting into but as the saying goes “fools rush in where angels fear tread” and I found myself engrossed in proof reading the draft new website Gary Douthwaite and Matt had developed. It was fascinating stuff considering I had been on a long gap year from national politics.

We struck a deal, where Matt intended working out his time until the re-arranged AGM in October whilst I shadowed him picking up the finer points of the job along the way. A kind of apprenticeship, which worked really well for three weeks until I received an email from Matt telling me he had had enough, and it was over to me. He had discussed the situation with the Executive at the time and they were happy to have me come on board and help out until such time as my appointment could be ratified by Council and I would be co-opted. It was the fastest promotion I could ever re-call.

My only concern was Council not meeting because of the Covid restrictions. I felt like an imposter, in at the deep end in a very dark place. In fact, it reminded of my early caving days on carbide using a “stinkie”; you know there is something there but you can't quite make out what it is. In this situation, I was teetering on the edge of huge black hole but did not know it.

Two things drew me back from oblivion, Zoom and the arrival of the guy who subsequently became Chair, Phil Rowsell. Zoom released the impasse that had been the conundrum to holding a Council Meeting. Dire warnings of such a meeting descending into chaos were totally unfounded and our first meeting in July proved a productive success ably chaired by Phil and successful from my perspective when Council co-opted me into the Acting Secretary position. I felt a little more legit but still out of my depth.

The intricacies of BCA rules and regulations, custom and practice and “make it up on the hoof” have tripped me up more than once and I readily admit to having made mistakes, not earth shatteringly bad ones, although I sense a need to minimise these. I am on a rapid learning curve (a prusiker would be handy, the slope is that steep) doing my best to make this organisation Great as in the Great British Caving Association. It has huge potential to benefit British cavers and I am working hard to make it happen. It is the outcomes that matter on which we should be judged, not slavish adherence to x y and z rules and protocol with no practical outcome or benefit to caving or cavers. Not that I’m advocating anarchy, far from it, that exists elsewhere; of course we should adhere to the norms and protocols of good practice but in the current circumstances, a little grace is required when we get it wrong, it is not intentional, we are all volunteers doing our best to the best of our abilities.

Phil is logging his hours, it is pretty full on; I never got started logging mine other than, suffice to say, it is the equivalent of full time work except it is not work; I would describe it as a labour of love and a question of principle to put back more than I took out of caving which is a pretty powerful thing.

From a nerdy point of view, by the time you read this, I will probably have processed over 2000 emails since starting in May. It has been illuminating.

On a positive note amid all the trials and tribulations Covid has brought, BCA has been able to post advice on the pandemic to keep our members, clubs and constituent bodies as upto date as can be interpreted from the shifting sands of Government advice and restrictions. I must pay special tribute to Bob Mehew for all his hard work on the updates posted on the BCA Website and linked to other fora, I just signed them off!

A large part of the my Secretary’s role has been as you would expect, administrative and with the introduction of regular Council Meetings on Zoom preparing agendas, processing reports, recording meetings, writing up minutes etc., etc., - the donkey work hidden behind the scenes which I won’t bore you with. We have had some catching up to do after getting on for 6 months of stagnation following the last face to face Council Meeting in January. The lights have come on full beam and green shoots of initiatives are emerging as well as others that have come to fruition such as the work of the Radon Working Group and QMC’s “Go” scheme. It would be remiss of me to steal the thunder of others but keep an eye on Youth and Development; they are after all our future and in need of our support and help, wherever we can give that.

In wrapping up this report, I must thank everyone and my colleagues in the Executive particularly, for their support, tolerance of my mistakes, advice, criticism (invariably well founded), humour (yes we do have a laugh) banter and some seriousness. I appreciate the

honeymoon period is running out - end of school report maybe 6 out of 10. I promise I will do better.

Finally, to go full circle, when I offered to be an “apprentice” to Matt, it was on two conditions; if I got to the AGM I would stand for election, here I am; I hope I am successful because the second condition was to give notice that I would stand down after the tenure of this office expires in 2022.

Weird times we are living in, my whole Secretary’s role to date undertaken in a virtual bubble!

Russell Myers
Acting Secretary

BCA Treasurer Report

Current bank balances: as at 03/09/2020 was £279,000. Of which £207,000 is in medium term interest bearing accounts and £10,000 is in a short term deposit account. I am holding more in the current account than usual due to potential CRoW legal fees.

Budget 2020:

October 2019 Council meeting approved a budget for 2020 which had a deficit of £10,000. In January we approved significant expenditure on extra PL cover (£9k) and Adventure Academy project (£5k) and radon (£1k). Since then we approved £12,000 on the first batch of CRoW legal fees. Council has approved the next batch of CRoW legal fees and if we lose the case (worst case scenario), the deficit for 2020 is likely to be in the order of £75k currently. The cut in the Bank of England interest rate will cost us around £2,000 in income in 2020 compared to 2019.

BCA Accounts year ending 31/12/2019

The spring AGM usually approves the accounts in a timely manner such that I can report to HMRC accordingly. The accounts were independently examined by Alastair Gott on 24/2/2020 and signed by Les Williams (BCA Chairman at the time) on 3/4/2020. They were included in my report to Council in April 2020. Signed copies are held by the Treasurer and Secretary of BCA. Given the uncertainty and delay in the timing of the AGM the executive approved the accounts in April and I reported to HMRC accordingly. The accounts have been displayed on the BCA website since April 2020. I enclose them below again for completeness. *[Please see the appendix ~ Ed.]*

The British Caving Association 2019 accounts show the following:

- Income for the year is similar to previous year.
Interest is slightly higher as more was held on deposit
- Employment costs increase due to pay award in January 2019 plus increased hours in last quarter in support of the national caving library as agreed by Council.
- There were no donations in the year.
- The overall training result was a small deficit, an improvement on previous year

Council agreed the following cost increases in the year:

- Radon £4k
- Library £2k
- GPF £1k.

Support for the regions was £3k higher.

The end result was a surplus of £8k compared with £19k in 2018. Cash balances were £16k higher at year end compared to previously year at £298k. Accruals were at a similar value to prior year at £36k. Net assets were £262k, compared to £254k prior year.

Howard J Jones

Treasurer

BCA Insurance Managers Report

Liability Renewal:

BCA Council in January 2020 agreed to increase the Public Liability cover member benefit from £5m to £10m due to recent claims above £5m that similar national bodies to BCA had experienced.

We approached a number of insurers for a quotation, unfortunately we received declined responses from AIG, Allianz and RSA and Zurich did not respond.

We received one firm quotation from Sompo, a Lloyd's syndicate. The premium is £8,500 + Insurance Premium Tax, a cost to BCA of £9,500. As excess layers go, they mirror the wording of the primary policy, i.e. the £2m policy underwritten by Hiscox. The only condition they have stipulated which differs from the Hiscox wording is they are excluding any and all claims as a result of activities in the USA/Canada.

Therefore the BCA members and others entitled to indemnity will have a Public Liability limit of £10m World-wide, limited to £5m in respect of claims as a result of activities in USA/Canada.

The FAQs on the BCA website have been updated accordingly.

Low claim rebates:

All past low claims rebates have been received. 2019 low claims rebate at £1400 has been received already in 2020 and will reduce this year's premium payable.

Other National Bodies

I was invited to a meeting with the insurance managers of other outdoor national bodies in the wake of the recent BMC settlement. Interesting exchange of ideas. Useful future contacts. I was the only volunteer at the meeting. Our PL policy is the envy of most of the other organisations with no claims and much fewer exceptions on the policy.

Brexit

Despite leaving the EU last December there is little clarity on how this will affect us from an insurance perspective as yet.

Howard J Jones
Insurance Manager

Publications and Information Officer's Report

The BCA currently has three working groups that are expanding and are changing the organisation into one that is able to use our significant resources. It has been challenging to recruit to this new body – P&I has a vague purpose in many people's minds which is why it became a useless cul-de-sac for many years. Jane tried to change that and brought some much-needed dynamism and proactivity into the role. She achieved things like creating www.newtocaving.com, was integral helping rebrand BCA, established a BCA presence at Hidden Earth and tried to reform the website. Sadly, she wasn't supported in the right way and resigned her post. We need to stop this from happening going forward, and part of that is moving away from the idea that council is BCA.

What have we done so far?

Aside from earning £100 for delivering a talk about caving, the tumult of the last few months has limited my time. We've amalgamated the media liaison role into the group, expanded our social media presence, done significant work on document checking and laid the groundwork for all the teams listed below.

What will we do by the next AGM?

The creation of the following teams:

- Digital: responsible for website updates & document checking.
- Data: responsible for writing surveys & collating Feedback, giving demographic updates on our membership.
- Graphics: maintaining logos & digital stationary, creating a BCA Photo Library, permissions and help for photographers, Podcasts and Filming (an ad campaign for British Caving!).
- Media: handling the interviews and requests, doing the social media posting, print advertising.
- Services: Proof reading & Publication, Journal club & Surveys and BCA publishing.

If you think any of this sounds interesting please do get in touch, particularly in Graphics and Social Media, we could definitely use more volunteers.

Rostam Namaghi

Publications and Information Officer

BCA Media Liaison Officer's Report

Clearly this is an interesting period for the country or indeed the world's history. As far as caving is concerned the year started with the aftermath of the Thailand cave rescue and finished with corona virus and lockdown.

I see the job of BCA Media Liaison Officer as receiving enquiries and passing them on to the appropriate people. There are only a small number where it is appropriate for me to handle personally. Many of the enquiries still come by telephone. The news media want very quick responses, they realise not everybody is watching the internet all of the time, and telephones give them an instant response, and indeed they keep searching for people to talk to until they get an instant response. This can be dangerous for caving as it is possible the enquires can get into the wrong hands. Certainly, as far as the Thai rescue was concerned media around the world got hold of many inappropriate people who talked nonsense about hypothermia and decompression, not understanding warm and very shallow water.

Overall, the year has been quiet as far as media interest is concerned. Certainly, in this period Brexit was the major factor, then of course followed by corona virus totally dominating everything. Books and film documentaries are still coming out in connection with the Thai rescue. There is also a proper documentary being produced in conjunction with the actual British cave divers which has been postponed.

A very good film produced by the Draining the Oceans team and featuring Roo Walters as the laser scanning guru came out mid period and I thought was a very good representation of the events, certainly from an inorganic point of view.

To name a few enquiries in detail; the BBC are looking for something for Steve Backshall, I steered them towards cavers in Indonesia.

Another BBC enquiry were looking for a huge cave like Deer Cave, I passed this onto Roo Walters who sent them a fly through of Deer Cave. We were invited to participate in the Elon Musk v Vernon Unsworth court case. I avoided getting involved with this.

Clearly since the pandemic hit the world, caving has almost ceased and no enquiries have been received, certainly it has been the quietest period during my time as BCA Media Liaison Officer.

Going forward, I would be prepared to continue an involvement in media liaison. It has been suggested to connect it more closely with the publications and information area of BCA, I would certainly be prepared to work with anybody in this respect. Quite a few media enquiries come to me anyway from my involvement with the International Union of

Speleology so having an involvement in a clearing house of media enquires is something I could continue to offer in the future.

The position of Media Liaison Officer has now been dissolved. I have volunteered my services to Rostam, if he wants me to do anything in the future, you know where I am.

Andy Eavis

Media Liaison Officer

CROW Access campaign Report

This is a summary of the current situation regarding the BCA's attempt to bring a Judicial Review of the Welsh Government's (WG) decision to withdraw its invitation to CCC access officer Stuart France to be a member of its access reform group (ARAG) on the grounds that caving is not covered by the CROW Act 2000. It repeats some material I have already circulated in previous communications with the BCA council.

Our solicitor, Richard Buxton, filed our PAP (pre-action protocol) in April, and then issued proceedings, with a detailed claim and 'statement of facts and reasons'.

Our barrister, Annabel Graham-Paul, did a superb job summarising our case in these documents, thanks to extremely detailed briefing from Stuart France, and further assistance and previous work by Bob Mehew, Tim Allen and others. In fact, she has already done a large part of the preparatory work she would need to do if the case goes further.

We received a defence from the WG and filed a response to the defence, contesting its main argument – that the ARAG was not part of the WG, despite being appointed by it, having its activities reported on the WG website, and being wholly answerable to it. The WG has not engaged with the substance of the case at all, and has not contested our principal arguments – that parliament did not intend caving to be excluded from the provisions of CROW, and that the current situation, where the WG and UK government claim we do have a right of access, but only as far as the daylight lasts, is perverse.

Unfortunately, in late summer the court accepted the defence argument and refused us permission for a full hearing on the grounds that because ARAG is somehow separate from the WG, our claim is not 'justiciable'. The judge took the decision on the basis of the case papers alone – ie, there was no hearing.

Acting on advice from our lawyers, we have now 'renewed' our application. It is set for an oral hearing before a different judge in the High Court in Cardiff on the Tuesday after the AGM, October 13th. If we win this, the case proceeds to a full hearing, with sworn evidence. If we lose, it is likely to be the end of the road, unless the judge's reasoning contains an obvious flaw that could be appealed.

Defra has added itself to the case as an "interested third party", in view of the fact that it has national applicability. It has not expressed a view itself. This underlines the point that if we win, the game is over: caving will be recognised by the law as being covered by CROW Act open access rules for mountain and moorland. One way or another, the issue will be settled.

The BCA council and executive have agreed to fund the action up to a maximum budget of £60,000, which we are assured will cover the full cost including VAT, even if we lose and have to pay the other side's costs. Our liability to pay this is capped at £5,000.

David Rose

BCA CROW Access Working Group Convenor

Newsletter editor's Report

This has, for obvious reasons, not been a vintage year for caving. The newsletter was dealt a bit of a blow with the resignation from the BCA council of Matt Ewles and Gary Douthwaite, who did a superb job in laying out and producing the last two issues.

I'm delighted to report that the well-known Mendip caver and diver Dr Peter Glanville, who already edits the BEC newsletter, the always-excellent Belfry Bulletin, has kindly agreed to take on this task. I'm hoping we can get a new issue out soon after the AGM. Now is the time to send me contributions at [david@davidroseuk.com](mailto:david@ davidroseuk.com)

David Rose

BCA Newsletter editor

BCA Training Officer Report

BCA Training Officer

The BCA Training Officers terms of reference and duties need to be clarified as the TO position comes up for election in 2021. I would like to thank the BCA exec for their support and help with the work of the training officer.

BCA Training Committee

The membership is getting stronger and we have a team of very experienced and dedicated volunteers. We also welcome the newly appointed CNCC training officer Ian Patrick who has already in the process of setting up training events in the Yorkshire Dales. We are also joined this year by Steve Gray representing BCRC, Jo White BCRA, Josh White BCA Youth & Development Officer and Steve Holding from NAMHO. In the absence of a training officer from CSCC and Devon & Cornwall, I have been active setting up workshops in these areas until lockdown.

BCA Training Committee 2020

Nigel Atkins	(NA)	BCA Training Officer
Nigel Atkins	(NA)	DCA Training Officer
Richard Hill	(RH)	CCC Training Officer
Vacant		CSCC Training Officer (BCA Training Officer standing in temporarily)
Ian Patrick	(IP)	CNCC Training Officer
Vacant		Devon & Cornwall rep (BCA Training Officer standing in temporarily)
Tony Radmall	(TR)	Scouts Rep
Rob Watson	(RW)	CHECC Training Officer
Steve Gray	(SG)	BCRC rep - (approved by Jim Davis)
Graham Derbyshire	(GD)	ACI rep
Jo White	(JoW)	BCRA Rep
Vacant		Pengelly Trust Rep
Vacant		CDG Rep
Steve Holding		NAMHO Rep
Co Opted members		
Kevin West	(KW)	DCA coaching scheme
Dave Baines	(DB)	Abandoned Mines expert
Phil Rowsell	(MP)	Expedition Training Officer

Josh White	(JRW)	BCA Youth & Development Officer
Hellie Adams	(HA)	BCA Visions Group
Mark Sims	(MS)	BCA Equipment Officer
Peter Robertson	(PR)	North Wales rep

A special thanks goes to Stuart France for his valuable experience and the setting up of the last training committee meeting on line.

BCA Training Grants

All training grant applications are sent in by the regional training officers who look after training events in their regions. Any clubs and organisations falling outside regions with a training officer can apply directly to the BCA training officer.

BCA Training Events

We will be setting up new events as soon as we can. These are the workshops that were run earlier this year before Covid 19:

- 4 x SRT Masterclass Workshops - Derbyshire, Mendip, Cornwall & Yorkshire
- 2 x SRT Riggig Workshops - Derbyshire & Yorkshire
- 1 x Underground Cave Navigation Workshop - Yorkshire
- 1 x Underground Cave Formation & Development Workshop - Yorkshire
- 1 x SRT Self Rescue Workshop - Derbyshire
- 1 x Weather & Flooding Workshop - Derbyshire
- 1 x Cave photography Workshop - Derbyshire

Regional Training Officers Running BCA Training Events

A discussion was raised about regional training officers being paid to run workshops themselves. It was felt by the training committee that if a regional training officer held the appropriate qualification, wanted to run it themselves with the approval by their regional body then this was more than fair and reasonable to be the paid workshop director. We also raised the point that it could be questionable that regional training officers were creating themselves paid work which is a fair point, however when these regional TO's give so much time and effort to get events up and running in their areas and provide work opportunities to other paid workshop leaders such as Photography, Geology etc. it is more than a fair 'pay back', especially to get someone who is a CIC holder to give their time and expertise for free to BCA for everything else they do on training committee.

It must also be noted here that in my capacity as BCA Training Officer, I am only allowed to be paid expenses for all of those 'Evenings with the BCA Training Officer' talks/demos that

not only update cavers all over the UK - they are flagship events for promoting BCA training and the work of the BCA as a whole in all its positive glory.

BCA Training Continuity

Complaints of techniques shown on training events (not BCA TC workshops) have come to me directly from cavers who attended. It looks like there are things said and shown that are not agreed practice by all. It is very difficult to manage this with cavers working remotely and teaching their preference rather than BCA agreed practice. This has always been top of my list as TO and together with TC the E&T committee, ACI and QMC we hope to roll out some agreed safe and 'good' (best) practice.

BCA Coaching Guidelines

I have shared the DCA scheme with caving clubs in other areas with a view of moving this forward nationally.

Clubs run their own training with 4 modules:

- MODULE 1: BASIC CAVING (NON VERTICAL)
- MODULE 2: VERTICAL CAVING - (NON SRT)
- MODULE 3: VERTICAL CAVING - SINGLE ROPE TECHNIQUES. (SRT)
- MODULE 4: PITCH RIGGING & SRT RESCUE

The coaching guidelines concentrate on training the trainers as well as club members through workshops and training courses run by club members themselves assisted and mentored by a BCA trainer and assessors involved with the DCA scheme. The Caving Coach is someone that provides training to cavers in the 4 module scheme.

DCA together with BCA training committee will run workshops after lock down to start opening the doors nationally to cavers who wish to train other cavers.

Nigel Atkins

BCA Training Officer

Qualifications Management Committee Report

A difficult year for everybody, but with little caving possible for many months, QMC members have managed to move forward with several projects:

Covid 19 Advice

Different regulations issued by each of the home nations, along with advice from regional caving councils and rescue organisations – a source of confusion. Thus we prepared periodic bulletins, shared through numerous channels, to assist award holders make work place decisions.

Go Membership

A candidate management system which has brought administration of the BCA instructor and leader award schemes into the 21st century. A project first dreamt of a decade ago, we finally launched at the start of September. The system replaces existing outdated databases and handbooks and will handle registrations, qualification certification and BCA payments.

Functions include:

- Online registration and payment
- Online booking for training, assessments and update workshops, and payment for workshops which are directly administered by BCA
- Access to view and print out certificates
- Downloadable log book pages, or if preferred, excel spreadsheets which are easily shared
- PDF downloads explaining each stage of the schemes - these replace the current outdated handbooks
- Help manage our GDPR obligations by enabling users to manage their own personal details
- Alerts to award holders regarding up and coming expiry dates of their awards
- Help evidence a candidate's pathway throughout the award schemes in a clear and concise way.

The final package, I think, is fantastic and a credit to the BCA and those who worked so hard this summer to make it happen.

Radon

The introduction of the updated Ionising Radiation Regulations (IRR17) caused much uncertainty for award holders, with regards to their HSE responsibilities and how they could prove compliancy. Thus, QMC supported the work led by the Radon Working Group, in updating the Radon Underground document, and producing guidance for recording

potential radon exposure. Public Health England advised us to measure each venue used by groups which may breach safe working levels, at least four times over the year. Many Trainer/assessors volunteered to assist in placing monitors; a complex and time consuming exercise. Despite the Covid 19 lockdown interfering with the final round of sampling, we now have a bank of information which will be invaluable to cavers.

Resources

Several CIC holders have been involved in preparing resources to support various parts of the LCMLA and CIC syllabuses. These are available on the BCA website and may be of interest not just to award holders, but to the caving population at large. They can be found in PDF format on the BCA website:

<https://british-caving.org.uk/wiki3/doku.php?id=training:downloads>

Currently published are: Guides to LCMLA rope-work and life-lining systems, Weather and Flooding and Water Safety. Cave geology and Hazards/Risk Assessment documents are nearing completion.

Equipment

As changes occur in recommended use of technical equipment, we strive to stay abreast of accepted best practice, liaising with equipment manufacturers and advising award holders of developments. A recent example of this was the work done looking at belay devices which are considered appropriate for use by LCMLAs when belaying ladder pitches.

Voluntary sector subsidy

BCA offers support to cave leaders who use their award to work in the voluntary sector. We are set to launch this subsidy as a grant honouring Nigel Ball and Dave Elliot, two inspirational characters within the caver training world, who sadly passed away last year. We hope that this small bursary will assist those who generously give their time to work with young people voluntarily.

Juliet Parker-Smith

QMC Chair

BCA IT Working Group Report

I have been coventor of the IT Working Group since the 18th of July, so I can only report on what has happened since then.

From a day to day support perspective we've been fairly busy inducting a number of new executive and council members, and helping them with email inboxes, mailing lists, updating the website etc. We've also been working with the QMC to ensure that the Candidate Management System release went smoothly.

Alongside our usual support role, we have a number of other projects in various stages of completion. These include:

- Creating a new BCA website that members can log-in to in order to update their details and preferences, and that better serves our members and those interested in Caving.
- Designing, building, and transitioning to a dynamic online membership database that can be used to facilitate online voting, services to members, and membership administration.
- Developing an administrative interface between these two entities to facilitate BCA volunteer work such as registering members for events, preparing for AGMs, and tracking council member participation.
- Transitioning paying customers away from our web hosting services in order to decommission our aging Virtual Private Servers.
- Improving the documentation and management infrastructure for BCA systems to facilitate development and support.

And alongside this, of course, we've been working to help the BCA adapt to the COVID19 pandemic by:

- Sourcing user-friendly and affordable video conferencing software for meetings (for council, working groups, regional councils etc).
- Designing and implementing an online AGM with secure, accessible online voting alongside live-streamed videoconferencing.

None of these projects have fixed ETAs; instead we will get them working by when they're needed, then continue to build on them to improve ease of use, feature richness, and our ability to support them.

We're making good progress, all thanks to the absolutely superb skill and hard graft of our volunteers. At this AGM we'll say goodbye to David Cooke as Web Services Manager and Gary Douthwaite as Webmaster - thank you both for your invaluable support. We'll warmly

welcome Andrew, Steve, and others as the group grows its ranks to be able to reduce workload for and reliance on any one volunteer.

Things to look out for

As a BCA member you can expect to see some changes soon:

- A new, more modern and feature rich website
- A new way to log-in to update your details
- A new online form on the website to join the BCA as a Direct Individual Member

Please...

... be kind! We're all volunteers trying to move a big and complicated organisation off 15 year old undocumented code.

... help! We're always looking for new volunteers to get involved, whatever your skill level. It's a rare opportunity to get some hands on experience with some really interesting organisation level IT!

Feedback & Support

If you have any questions or feedback please email it@british-caving.org.uk. If you're looking for help with BCA IT please visit whmcs.british-caving.org.uk/submitticket.php.

Ari Cooper-Davis

IT Working Group Convenor

Radon Working Group Report

The Radon Working group was formally re-activated in April 2019. The remit for the Working Group was to update the Radon Underground document reflecting changes in the regulations for those who work in environments where concentrations of radon exceed a certain level. It's worth highlighting this is of particular concern to those who lead groups underground in a professional capacity, although has come about from a greater understanding of the risks to health, in particular the potential for developing lung cancer from exposure to high levels of radon, and so should be of interest to all cavers and mine explorers.

One of the key changes in the regulations is the need to gather an annual average of radon. To manage this a significant project conducting sampling over Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter took place funded by the BCA, Ministry of Defence (MoD), Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres (AHOEC) and various regional groups/providers.

Our work is largely done, however COVID stalled the last phase of sampling during Spring. This work will now take place in the Spring of 2021 at which point the document will need some minor amending. Radon Underground Version 3 is available to download from the BCA website together with the supporting sampling results.

As a group we are in the process of drafting an "executive summary" of the document which, together with the data currently available on the BCA website. This work is still in progress however we hope to have it produced by the end of October.

The change in regulations highlight the need to be mindful regarding radon when exploring caves and mines, however some relatively simple steps (such as avoiding some venues during the Summer months, or avoiding gathering in some areas within caves/mines with higher levels of radon for extended periods of time) should assist cave and mine explorer in reducing our exposure. It's worth highlighting there is no safe level of exposure to radon, however as radon is abundant in our homes, places of work and even outdoors we cannot avoid it.

One of the key benefactors to this work has undoubtedly been to those working under the Local Cave and Mine Leader Award or Cave Instructor Certificate who must comply with the regulations. That the document has been reviewed and accepted by a Radon Protection Adviser and scrutinised by HSE has not only given an added level of credibility to the document but also given the award scheme significant support. The document will be used by QMC to support award holders and providers in the years to come.

Moving forwards there's the question of the future of the working group. BCA may want to consider providing a fund for those that control access to caves and mines as well as cavers

and mine explorers to enable sampling (together with advice on how to conduct the sampling) with the view to developing a data base of radon for many caves or mines across the UK.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the BCA for their support in this project as well as a number of key individuals who have given up their time writing the updated document and conducting the regional sampling. They are; Bob Mehew, Pete Knight, Richard Hill, Chris Jackson, Stephan Natynczuk, Dave Hollingham, Graham Derbyshire, Mark Richards, Iain Rennie, Phil Baker, John Gunn, Tracy

Gooding, Jen Barnes, Elizabeth Reeves, Dave Linton and Clark Friend. As well as the MoD and AHOEC

Gethin Thomas

Radon Working Group Convener

Rope Test Officer's Report for 2019 and 2020

Some three samples were tested during 2019. The BCA Rope Test Rig was not taken to Hidden Earth in 2019 due to personal commitments. One sample has been submitted in early 2020 but has not been tested due to the Covid 19 virus lock down and subsequent personal commitments. An enquiry has recently been received about the effect of a medium sized vehicle running over a rope and consideration is being given to the potential impact.

Last year's report mentioned some work undertaken on safety life set ups. A document entitled "Report of some work on the impact of shock loading of some safety line set ups" was issued in July 2019, see https://british-caving.org.uk/wiki3/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=rope_testing:2019-07impact_of_shock_loading.pdf . The report made some recommendations to various BCA Committees.

The key message was not to use a toothed ascender after the pulley as had been recommended by some manufacturers (though subsequently withdrawn). As can be seen in the before and after images beneath, the forces arising from even a small fall were sufficient to damage the pulley.



Before and after of a pulley and ascender combination for life lining drop test © G Thomas

Some work was also undertaken in 2019 at the instigation of Alex Ried on the potential for using what is known as a soft shackle, a development from the world of sailing. Although initial results looked interesting, there are complications in terms of what standards should be used to check the system. No follow up work has been done in 2020.

Some work has been undertaken at the start of 2020 on the Bradford Pothole Club's Rope Test Rig following a request from Training Committee to look at the differences between Alpine and Cavers Butterfly Knots. A report has been drafted, see page 16 in https://british-caving.org.uk/wiki3/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=about:documents:council_meetings:bca_council_meeting_4th_april_2020_reports.pdf which concluded that "It is considered that the observed weakness of the Cavers Butterfly knot makes it a knot to avoid". Unfortunately, Council has not been able to consider the report due to the impact of the Covid 19 virus but the results have been publicised in Descent.

The Bradford Pothole Club which permits me to use their rope test rig have made plans to replace the garage in which it stands. I am grateful to Council for approving the funding if needed of a replacement rig if the steel work cannot be reclaimed.

Bob Mehew
Rope Test Officer

British Caving Library Report

This report covers the period from June 2019 to September 2020; it is for information and reflects the situation at the time it is being written.

Initially with the Coronavirus lockdown in March 2020 we felt we had to close the Library altogether. However, following consultation with the owner of the premises at Glutton Bridge (whose family also work there) and with the occupant of the other office in the same building, we evolved a way of working which complied with all risk assessments and enabled the three of us to continue to provide a service. Firstly, we equipped all close contact areas with hand sanitisers and disinfectant sprays; we travelled in separately, on different days, working alone but communicating regularly by email. Following the relaxation of contact rules we have been able to return to our normal routine of working together in the Library on one day a week.

We welcomed an important addition to the Library staff in November 2019. Library Assistant Katie Eavis has initially taken on the task of cataloguing in detail all the UK periodicals and this is now well on the way to completion. This has included weeding out all the duplicate copies which have accumulated since about 1980 as cavers donated the contents of their cellars, attics or club libraries. Katie, who has three small children at home, also takes boxes full of UK journals to continue with her detailed cataloguing work from home. The catalogued and labelled items are returned to the shelves and the duplicates are boxed and listed separately. This has enabled us for the first time to sort out systematically all the duplicate copies acquired due to donations and legacies since the 1980's. We will soon be in a position to provide an online list of sets of journals available to other caving libraries who might want them and, once "caver post" is operating again, we can send these on their way.

Librarian Mary Wilde has continued to deal with foreign journals, which we receive in exchange for BCRA Caves & Karst Science, and also with books. I continue to deal with newly acquired UK journals, sent to us by BCA member clubs, and with surveys, maps, etc. We also buy any relevant newly published books, etc. which are brought to our attention and are very grateful to those authors and editors who provide us with a free copy for the Library.

Mary and I both deal with incoming enquiries, passing the enquiries between us so that there is minimum delay in responding, usually by emailing out scans; there seems to be no drop in the number of enquiries we are currently processing compared to more normal times. We also both deal with visitors coming to do research and I come in regularly at weekends.

Mary has been working with the youngest member of 3 generations of cavers who has lent us a large collection of caving photographs taken by members of his family and dating back to the 1940's. These photos are being identified and incorporated by John Gardner into the online BCRA Archives section of the Library website. We have also had other archive items sent to us, often following on from an enquiry, some of which have resulted in more archive photos being displayed online. The library of the Yorkshire Ramblers Club is now gradually being transferred to BCL and this also contains a great deal of archive material.

Our two regular volunteers cataloguing the late John Beck's legacy of Peak District surveys, having finished with the hundreds of items stored in 133 cardboard tubes, are now progressing well with John's 8-drawer map chest containing yet more hundreds of surveys and maps. The first of these newly catalogued surveys have now been scanned and put on the Derbyshire Cave Registry website where they are available to all cavers.

Enquiries and Visits, 2019-20

The library welcomes enquiries by phone, email or personal visit. Enquiries seem to have stabilised at around 80 to 85 enquiries per year. However, the nature of the enquiries is trending towards research rather than simple copies, with about 50% now requiring us to carry out research which may take a number of hours.

Visits averaged around 80 per year up to March 2020 and some involved groups of people carrying out quite lengthy research. In November 2019 the Library again hosted a group of cavers from the BCRA Cave Survey Group who used the facilities to organise a 3-day training seminar on various aspects of cave survey software. This time the session ran with a total of some 13 or 14 cavers joining for all or part of the time.

Throughout 2019 and the first part of 2020 the Library continued to be used for meetings of the various BCA Training Committees and also by BCRA Council. It has excellent WiFi plus digital display facilities for meetings as well as scanners, copiers, etc. which can be used by visitors doing research. With the relaxation of the Coronavirus lockdown rules we are now allowing visitors to the Library once more; at first it will have to be one visitor at a time and we may have to wait some time before we can open the Library for meetings or seminar groups.

It is not easy to quantify but we feel that the overall use of the library continues to increase – certainly in the depth of information we are able to provide.

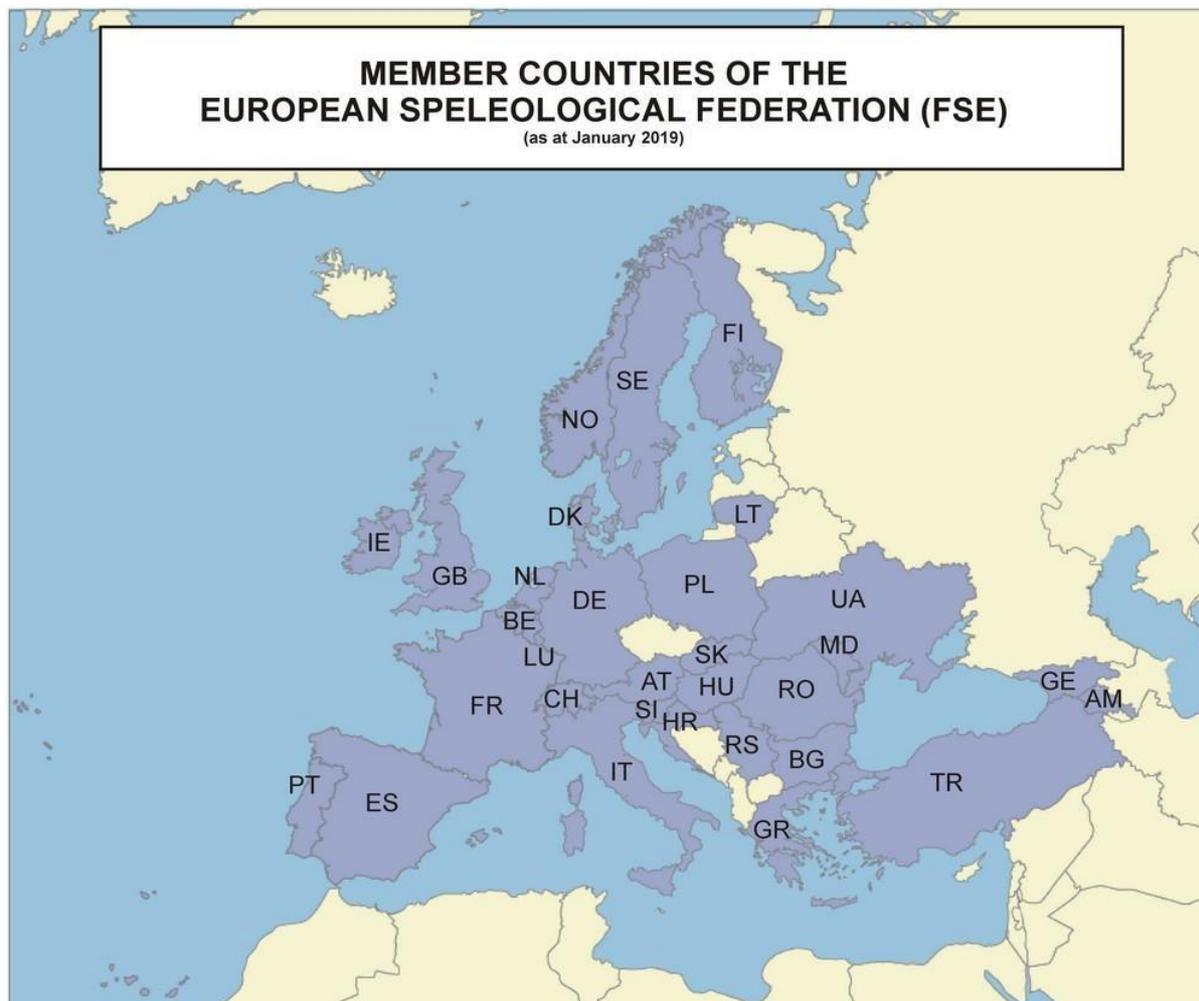
Jenny Potts, (j.potts@bcra.org.uk)

BCRA Library Co-ordinator

FSE Delegate Report

FSE Membership

The FSE currently comprises a membership of 31 countries.



Information & Publicity.

The FSE Facebook page URL: <https://www.facebook.com/eurospeleo>. WikiCaves organisation keep the FSE website updated on a regular basis. The FSE newsletter is published on a regular basis. The November edition is attached.

Last General Assembly Meeting of the FSE(GAM) 2019

The GAM at the Eurospeleo Forum in Dolni Lozen, Bulgaria, 26-29th September 2019. Full details of the meeting and decisions can be found in the GAM minutes on the FSE web site.

The main changes of personnel were: Vice-President Mladen Grasic and Vice-Secretary Michael Laumanns decided to step down from their positions and Michel Isnard (FR delegate) was voted in as new Vice-President and Joerg Dreybrodt (supported by the German federation) as new Vice-Secretary; both unanimously. The FSE Treasurer, Henk

Goutier (NL) agreed to carry on for another four year term in office. Jean-Claude Thies (Lux) agreed to continue for the next period (2019) as the FSE Treasury Auditor.

This year’s General assembly meeting, which was scheduled for August in Burgos, northern Spain, had to be cancelled due to COVID 19 pandemic. A virtual GAM held by Zoom is due to take place on 23rd September. Voting will follow in October.

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 working with EU commissioners and the different directorates within the EU. The ECPC has direct input into two working groups, ‘Bio-diversity’ and ‘Water’. FSE will be actively supporting the International year of Caves & Karst 2021 an initiative led by the UIS.

Eurospeleo Projects

Considerable work is invested in maintaining the system of sponsoring expeditions and projects, such as the EuroSpeleo Projects (ESP), the EuroSpeleo Forums (ESF), as well as the EuroSpeleo Protection Label (ESPL). Applications are also open to Latin American (FEALC) and African/MiddleEast (AME) countries and the Asian Union of Speleology (AUS). There is a minimum requirement of 3 different nationalities taking part.

Sacid-Korda’s from Barcelona are now the FSE’s official rope sponsor. However, Aventure Verticale (AV) have reduced their contract. The guidelines for applying can be found on the FSE website.

Report covering the period from June 2019 to June 2020 eurospeleo projects in general

The table below covers the period from June 2019 to June 2020. So far there have been 7 expeditions and 3 caving meetings totalling 608 participants. These projects received 9 grants of 600 Euro each (Total 5400 Euro) and sponsoring items from AV, Kordas and Scurion.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has caused the cancellation and delay of several expeditions and meeting since March this year.

Overview FSE EuroSpeleo Projects

Year	No	Title	Country	Start	End	Type	Nations	Entrants	Items

'19	3	Brazil	Germany	15.06.19	14.07.19	Exped	3	10	Grant, AV, Scurion,
'19	4	Expedition Sternes	Greece	27.06.19	07.07.19	Exped	6	46	Grant, AV, Scurion,
'19	5	Man and Karst	Italy	24.06.19	26.06.19	Meeting	9	10	Grant
'19	6	Mt Velbit	Croatia	29.07.19	11.08.19	Exped	7	44	Scurion, Kordas, AV
'19	7	Morca	Turkey	3.8.19	8.9.19	Exped	4	31	AV, Kordas, Grant
'19	8	Expedition Hochschwab	Austria	1.9.19	8.9.19	Exped	7	12	Grant
'19	9	Balkan Cavers Camp	Turkey	2.9.19	8.9.19	Meeting	6	11	Grant
'19	10	Speleologische Tage	Belgium	20.9.19	22.9.19	Meeting	6	22	Grant
'19	11	ChinExplos 2019	France	8.11.19	1.12.19	Exped	3	15	Grant
'19	12	DAO 2020 / Thailand	Belgium	3.02.20	19.2.20	Exped	4	6	Grant
'19	13	Myanmar 2020	Switzerland	Cancelled		Exped			n/a
'19	14	Cuba Santo Tomas 2020	Italy	Delayed		Exped			n/a
'19	15	Berger 2020	France	20.7.20	10.8.20	Meeting			Grant, AV
'20	1	Balkan Cavers Camp 2020	Bulgaria	9.9.20	13.9.20	Meeting			
'20	2	Abkhazia 2020	Italy	Cancelled		Exped			
'20	3	Morca 2020	Turkey	1.8.20	30.8.20	Exped			
'21	1	Ultima Patagonia	France	6.1.21	14.3.21	Exped			

BCA members will note that there are no applications from the UK but UK cavers regularly participate in expeditions and events organised by our colleagues in Europe.

Timetable of Eurospeleo events & General Assembly Meetings over next 3 years that involve the FSE.

ES Forum 2021 will take place at the UIS Congress in Chambéry, France in July 2021. This will celebrate 'The international year of the cave.'

Ged Campion

FSE Delegate for the BCA.

UIS Delegate Report

The main factors being considered by the UIS currently are the ongoing importance of caves and karst protection, considering such things as sympathetic development of show caves and the most environmentally friendly way of mining limestone. This is undoubtedly the most important aspect of the International Union of Speleology.

Other matters within the UIS are the forthcoming International Year of Caves and Karst which will start in January next year 2021, at an opening ceremony in Paris at UNESCO on 26th January. In conjunction with that, a booklet has been produced, cavers from Britain helped with script and photographs for this booklet. I will be attending the opening ceremony. This is in advance of the International Congress of Speleology which will be held near Lyon, at Le Bourget-du-Lac, southern France from July 23rd to 30th 2021.

For people who do not know, the international congress takes place every four years. They started in Postojna in 1965 and the one next year will be the 18th, maybe Britain should hold the 20th in 2029? The international congress will certainly be a fantastic affair for anybody interested in caves, caving, and karst. The limestone region of southern France is spectacular with wonderful caves. There will be unique opportunities to visit many caves which are not generally easily accessible, including archaeological sites and very sporting, technical caves. The 23rd to 30th July 2021 should be in all caver's diaries.

The UIS continues to produce a bulletin twice a year. The last one was December 2019, and their magazine The International Journal of Speleology continues with all the cave and karst coverage and an amazing set of editors from many speleological countries.

I have had several virtual UIS meetings during the past year and attended the bureau meeting which coincided with the UIS Asian meeting on 10th and 11th September 2019 in Bohol, Philippines. Phil Rowsell also attended this meeting which as ever was well attended by UIS bureau members including, Tim Moulds from Australia winding up the reports from the last international congress in Australia and Bernard Chirol talking about the organisation for the next international congress. Obviously, discussion on caves and karst protection were the main topic and there is clearly much more to do on this on an international basis.

The next UIS meeting was planned for 9th and 10th May in Slovakia, this has been cancelled/postponed although there have been many virtual meetings over the year.

The UIS website goes from strength to strength, it is easy to view and kept reasonably up to date. It can be found at <http://www.uis-speleo.org>

I recommend anybody interesting in caves and karst anywhere around the world to visit this site.

Final plug for the International Congress for next year southern France, 23rd to 30th July 2021.

Recently there was an annual bureau meeting with the particular intention of firming up arrangements for the international congress. The bureau meeting was in Brno, Czech Republic on 9th and 10th September. I booked and unfortunately paid for flights, then quarantine arrangements were introduced between the UK and the Czech Republic, business and a family commitment meant I couldn't quarantine on return, so unfortunately, I lost my flight money. The meeting went ahead by Zoom, three bureau members were in physically in attendance, two from the Czech Republic and one from Slovenia, all other members attended by Zoom.

The two dominating points of the meeting were the International Year of Caves and Karst with a grand opening at UNESCO headquarters in Paris on 26th January. Clearly a great deal of discussion took place as to whether this was likely to go ahead as planned, contingencies are being drawn up if there has to be a delay due to international travel restrictions. The same applies to the international congress in France next June. There would be no consideration for delaying the "Year of Caves & Karst".

Andy Eavis

UIS Delegate

Youth & Development Group Report

This is a very important time for Youth and Development in the BCA, with Covid and its related distancing restrictions having the potential to decimate youth caving, in particular universities.

A major part of my job for the next year will be to assist CHECC in guiding universities through these restrictions. A budget was agreed to run some small regional events aimed at those who would be doing training at the university clubs, to give them the skills and confidence to coach those within their clubs. The first of these has not occurred however updated Covid ruling means that an event of this scale will not be able to occur again until the ruling changes. We are looking at the potential to arrange club by club training events in place of these. CHECC are doing some great work in planning for weekends to be able to continue, mainly focussed around the issues that we know university clubs are having; transport, kit usage and accommodation. Further updates on these issues will go to council as this landscape develops.

A national youth caving team is in the early stages of development, with a view to getting volunteer members in each main caving region of the UK to arrange one weekend every 4 months for an under 18 caving team. This will require potentially a large number of volunteers who would also need to be LCMLA qualified. Various safeguarding issues will need to be sorted also, for instance DBS checks and accommodation requirements.

We're also looking to enable other youth groups other than scouting, such as the Guide association and schools, to have an accessible route into caving, and have several people keen to take negotiations on.

Several joint projects have been kickstarted between P&I and Y&D. One is a document to be handed out to QMC to distribute to caving instructors to pass on to customers to encourage them to take up caving long term by joining a club or similar. Another document or set of documents is for existing clubs to guide them through what they need to do in order to take young people caving. The final project is one of development of diversity in the BCA. First a study of the membership of BCA would need to be done, to take a look at ethnicity, sexuality and disabilities, in order to identify what the BCA is doing well and what the BCA can do better. Several volunteers have come forwards with some bright ideas of how we can develop the diversity of cavers in the UK.

Josh White

Youth & Development

Appendix:

Item 1 - BCA Accounts for the year ending 31/12/2019

These begin on the next page

BRITISH

CAVING

ASSOCIATION

Financial Statements for the Year

Ended 31 December 2019

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

I report on the accounts of the association for the year ended 31 December 2019 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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.

Independent
examiner's statement

Name: **Alasdair Gott**
Address: **62 Brackenwood Mews, Wilmslow, SK9 2QQ**
Dated: **February 2020**

**BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	2019	2018
	£	£
INCOME		
Subscriptions	100,886	97,681
Association	3,284	2,219
Training Services	22,471	22,918
Publications & Information	0	0
Meetings & Conferences	0	0
Web Services	732	1,389
TOTAL INCOME	<u>127,373</u>	<u>124,207</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Subscription	54,995	45,097
Association	8,933	10,314
Conservation & Access	0	1,868
Training Services	22,318	22,101
Caver Training	827	2,652
Publications & Information	247	0
Equipment & Techniques	0	1,453
Youth Development	1,650	1,542
Radon Expenditure	3,967	0
Web Services	2,776	2,062
Regional Caving Councils	5,582	2,682
International	400	339
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>101,695</u>	<u>90,110</u>

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

British Cave Research Association for British Caving Library	12,000	10,000
Ghar Parau Foundation for Expedition Programme	6,000	5,000
<u>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</u>	<u>7,678</u>	<u>19,097</u>
TAX	0	0
<u>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR AFTER TAX</u>	<u>7,678</u>	<u>19,097</u>

BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	2019	2018
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors and Prepayments	388	6,942
Balances at Bank and cash in hand	298,477	281,905
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	298,865	288,847
LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors and Accruals payable within one year	36,851	34,511
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET ASSETS	<u>262,014</u>	<u>254,336</u>

REPRESENTED BY RESERVES :

General Reserve		
Balance brought forward	174,336	155,239
Surplus for year	7,678	19,097
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	182,014	174,336
less transfer to Insurance Reserve	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	182,014	174,336
 Insurance Reserve	 80,000	 80,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL RESERVES	<u>262,014</u>	<u>254,336</u>

Approved on behalf of the Executive Committee

L Williams, Chairman

Date

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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.