

British Caving Association Council Meeting 2/2/21 held via Zoom  
1915pm to 2104 pm

**Table of Contents:**

Agenda item	Page	Agenda item summary
1		Apologies for absence
2	4	Acceptance of Minutes from 02/12/2020 Council Meeting
3	4	Matters Arising/Action List
4	5	Chairman's Report
5	4	BCA Treasurer Report
6	7	BCA Insurance Managers report
7	8	Other Reports
8	8	BCA Training
9	9	Conflict of Interest Policy and Procedure
10		Mental Wellbeing Group
11	10	Date and nature of the next AGM
12	10	AOB
13	11	Date of next Council meeting
<b>Appendices</b>		
A		Summary of decisions from Agenda Item 8 Training December Council
B		Training Officer's report
C		Mental Wellbeing document

**Council Positions, Attendance and Report Status Table**

**Voting Positions**

Position	Name	Initials	Atn (y/n)	Last report	New Report
<b>BCA Executive</b>					
Chair (acting) 2018 -2021 3 years	Russell Myers	RM	y	2/2/21	Yes
Secretary (acting) 2020- 2021	Allan Richardson	AR	y		
Treasurer 2020-2023 3 years	Howard Jones	HJJ	Y	2/2/21	Yes
<b>Group/Club Representatives</b>					
Position 1 (2019-2021) 2 years	Hellie Adams	HA	n		
Position 2 (2019-2021)	Josh White	JW	y		

2 years  
Position 3 (2020-2022) Lydia Leather LL n

2 years  
Position 4 (2020-2022) Idris Williams IW y

2 years  
**Individual Member  
Representatives**

Position 1 (2019-2021) Pete Knight PK y

2 years  
Position 2 (2019-2021) Martin Hoff (see MF y  
notes)

2 years  
Position 3 (2020-2022) Jenny Potts JP y

2 years  
Position 4 (2020-2022) Andrew McLeod AM y

2 years  
**Chairs of Standing Committees**

Training Officer (2018-2021) Nigel Atkins NA n 2/2/21 Yes  
3 years

Equipment & Techniques Mark Sims MS y 2/2/21 Yes  
(2020-2023) 3 years coopted

Conservation & Access Will Burn WB y 2/12/20 No  
(2019-2022) 3 years

Publication and Information Rostam Namaghi RN y 18/8/20 No

**Regional Council  
Representatives**

CCC Stuart France SF y

CNCC Andrew Hinde AH y

CSCC Linda Wilson LW y

DCA Wayne Sheldon WS y

DCUC David Jean DJ y

**Constituent Body  
Representatives**

WPCST Richard Vooght RV n

ACI Stephan Natynczuk SN y

National Caving Scout Active Tony Radmall TR y

Support Unit

BCRA John Gunn JG y

NAMHO Steve Holding SH y

CHECC Jennifer Ryder JR y

CDG Claire Cohen CC n

BCRC Emma Porter EP n

**Non Voting Positions**

Position	Name	Initials	Atn	Last Report	New Report
<b>Working Group Convenors</b>					
IT	Ari Cooper-Davis	ACD	y		
Y & D	Josh White	JW	y		
CRoW Annual	David Rose	DR	n	2/2/21	Yes

QMC	Juliet Parker-Smith	JPS	y	2/2/21	Yes
Vision	Hellie Adams	HA	n		
Radon	Gethin Thomas	GT	y	2/2/21	Yes
<b>Additional BCA Appointments</b>					
Insurance Manager	Howard Jones	HJJ	y	2/2/21	Yes
Membership Administrator	Wendy Williams	WW	n	2/2/21	Yes
Safeguarding Officer	Chris Boardman	CB	n		
Training Administrator	Mary Wilde	ME	n		
Library Representative	Jenny Potts	JP	y	2/12/20	No
Newsletter Editor	David Rose	DR	n	2/2/21	Yes
UIS Representative	Andy Eavis	EA	y	2/2/21	Yes
FSE Representative	Ged Campion	GP	y	2/2/21	Yes
Rope Testing	Vacant				
Artificial Cave	Katie Eavis	KE	n		
QMC Rep 1	Phil Rowsell	PR	n		
QMC Rep 2	Chris Boardman	CB	y		
<b>Observers</b>					
	Nick Williams	NW	n		
	Robert Scott	RS	y		

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, there were two alterations to the Agenda as follows:-

a)Co-options

With the resignation of Phil Rowsell, RM had been coopted to Chairman and AR had been coopted as Secretary. After some discussion it was agreed that the co-options would run until the next AGM  
Prop. RM 2<sup>nd</sup> NA Passed with 2 abs

b)Change of Agenda

The Chairman proposed that Item 8 Training would be moved to a separate meeting where it would be the only Agenda item  
Prop. RM 2<sup>nd</sup> JP passed 2 abs

Agenda item 1:Apologies for absence

Lydia Leather, David Rose and Richard Vooght

Agenda item 2: Acceptance of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec Minutes

The Minutes were accepted with 2 abs

Agenda item 3: Matters Arising/Action List

None other than what will be discussed in reports.

Agenda item 4: Chairmans Report

There were no questions to the Chairman re the report

Since the report was written Bob Mehew had resigned. He has been thanked by the chair for all his work over the years, the Chairman will circulate a history of his work. **Action RM**

#### Agenda item 5: BCA Treasurers Report

There were no questions to the Treasurer re the report.

Treasurer reported that the invoice from the FES was €550 which was slightly reduced from last year, has been paid.

#### Agenda Item 6: BCA Insurance Managers Report

There were no question to the Insurance Manager re the report.

The insurance Manager reported the following:-

a)The current Policy gives landowners cover for BCA members only. This is being looked into as to whether it is an omission or is it a change of policy about which we have not been informed. He will update us when he knows. He thanked Tim Allen, Will Burn, Andrew Hinds & Nick Williams for their assistance.

b)AH commented re claims from this year, there needs to be an advisory note individuals and clubs, that if they have contact with a landowner who is accusing them of damage, they should contact the BCA Insurance Manager immediately and not to enter into any discussions or negotiations with the landowner. HJJ is to create an advisory note. **Action HJJ**

#### Agenda item 7: Other Reports

No questions or comments on the reports.

#### Agenda item 8: BCA Training

Training deferred to 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.

#### Agenda item 9: Conflict of Interest policy and Procedure

After discussions and comments, HJ agreed that he would rewrite/refine and bring it back to the next Council. **Action HJJ**

#### Agenda item 10: Mental Wellbeing Group

The Chairman introduced the proposal, there was some discussion as to the way forward.

Proposed RM 2<sup>nd</sup> AR that “the statement and document needs to go to P&I who will check the details and create a page on the website”

Passed all in favour.

There needs to be a note on the website that this is a work in progress and input is requested from users. **Action RM**

#### Agenda item 11: Date and nature of the next AGM

As the state of Covid and social distancing is unsure for the for-seeable future, it was proposed to hold a virtual AGM on a date to be decided on in October. There was some discussion for and against.

The proposal was passed 15 for 5 against 3 abs **Action AR**

#### Agenda item 12: AOB

Membership

Details of the current membership were circulated.

A demographics report is to be published soon on the website.

### 3 Counties Traverse

The Chairman raised the idea of a 3 Counties Traverse to happen this year, initial soundings had showed that people were already thinking about it. It was still early days and the concept was one of an inspiration to cavers, once we can go caving again.

The Chairman proposed that it became a BCA project with potential BCA funding, there were wide ranging discussions, one of which was to put it off to 2022 when things should be a little clearer.

The Proposal was changed to “Council approves of the idea in principle, subject to a more detailed plan” Prop RM 2<sup>nd</sup> AR Passed with 1 against and 4 abstentions. **Action RM**

### Formation of a Northern Ireland Council

The Executive recommended against this due to concerns over its viability.

Passed all in favour

### Agenda item 13: Date of next Council Meeting

The next Council meeting would be held by Zoom on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Zoom details to follow.

Meeting closed at 2104

### Appendices

### Reports

#### Acting Chair's Report

The last year has been the strangest in my life and the fact I am now sat here as Chair of BCA is the strangest of all. I feel a heavy sense of responsibility and commitment to deliver my best to serve the caving community we all represent in this, the most unprecedented times of the modern era.

I must pay tribute to my immediate predecessor, Phil Rowsell, who sadly had to stand down for personal reasons and who, in many ways, gave me a fast track experience to Chairing an organisation such as BCA – his commitment both in time and effort were exemplary and he has left us a legacy of matters to carry BCA forward, not least modernisation of the organisation.

Last year, the use of Zoom meetings opened the way forward to holding Council meetings and we took off at some pace. That pace eventually caught up with us and the last Council Meeting in December revealed the limitations of a Zoom meeting when dealing with the relatively complex report of the Executive's document about Training and other wider issues. To this extent, I am recommending Council take stock and defer any further action on the Report for the time being to allow us to reflect and consolidate what we have achieved to date. There are one or two matters to resolve which appear in the agenda for this Council Meeting.

The year ahead presents up with new challenges as we eagerly await the lifting of Covid restrictions and a return to caving as we knew it. We need to be ready for this and I see a need for a National strategy to stimulate caving again, as many cavers will not have been active for some considerable time. The serious impact of Covid on caving becomes clear when considering the plight of the University Clubs' cavers, the majority of whom will have had little, if any, chance to go caving.

I met recently with the CHECC Committee and some strategies emerged which I aim to help them with. Training was a theme and is equally applicable to all cavers, Club based or otherwise, many of whom will be a little rusty after the lockdown restrictions and would benefit from an injection of training to hone their skills. As part of our National Strategy we should have a National Training Plan and I have requested the Training Committee produce one.

We also discussed ways of helping students once restrictions eased and an initiative I am more than happy to support is an appeal from CHECC to the other caving clubs to help support their members.

I join their appeal in asking other clubs to help in whatever way they can such as mentoring, transport and leadership underground and also those clubs with accommodation to extend a welcoming hand and offer some room when the time comes and restrictions are lifted.

Sadly, I had to report to CHECC and now the full Council, that the Executive feel the time is not right to pursue the proposed Summer Caving Event in the Dales. The Executive feel that the time and effort required to set up the event for June would not be worth the commitment considering the uncertainty of Covid and recommend that the event be postponed and re-considered for 2022.

The proposed PSM event in August is still live. An application for a permit has been lodged with ARSIP, to hold the event in the first two weeks of the month. The outcome is uncertain but out of our hands.

Finally, with some colleagues from Council; LW, DR, JW, I attended a presentation from UWE Public Relations students who we had briefed last year on issues affecting BCA for a project. The student's reports gave us much food for thought with some very forward thinking ideas to consider. A summary of the presentations is due shortly and will be circulated to Council for comment. Ideas are what we need, to prepare for the aftermath of Covid; do let me know of any you feel BCA should pursue.

Acting Chair

Russell Myers

26/01/2021

### **BCA Treasurer Report to BCA Council January 2021**

Current bank balances: as at 23/01/2021 was £247,000. Of which £121,000 is in medium term interest bearing accounts and £86,000 is in a short term deposit account. I am holding more in the current account than usual due to potential CRoW legal fees.

#### Investment accounts:

One of our medium term investments is with United Trust bank. The Deposit matured in January 2021. I bench marked the offer and discussed it with others and I have renewed it at 1% interest for a further year.

#### Unusual spend since last Council:

£8k on CRoW legal fees. £1k BCRA 2019 monies due. Y&D (Adventure Academy project) £3k. 2021 insurance renewal premiums £20k (These are the top up cover premiums, the main premium is paid by monthly instalments). DCA 2019 claim £1,700. BCRA final quarter 2020 donation £3k.

#### Budget 2021:

November 2020 Council meeting approved a budget for 2021 which had a deficit of £20,000. A clean version is on the BCA website.

#### BCA accounts result for 2020

I have produced draft figures for year ending 31/12/2020 and sent them to our auditor for review. As I predicted throughout last year we have reported our first ever deficit of £46k, though this is less than I predicted. This was mainly due to Council decisions during 2020 as follows: extra PL cover (£10k), Adventure Academy project (£5k), Radon (£3k) and CRoW legal fees £35k. Training has also shown a loss of £3k with reduced income and expenditure.

There have been some savings in meeting and travel costs. Y&D spend is at an all-time high of £8k and regional support is at £6k. Once audited I will send to Council for review and Executive for approval.

#### Regional accounts:

DCA claim of £1,700 was paid in December 2020.

#### CRoW financial situation.

A previous Council meeting agreed we could spend up to £60k pursuing this claim on the basis of its details and likely impact for UK caving as a whole. To date we have invested £35k in the legal proceedings. Should we win the case most of the costs we incur will be refunded. At present we are within budget with the proceedings.

HJJ January 2021.

### **BCA Insurance Managers report to BCA Council February 2021**

#### Liability policy Renewal 2021:

#### **BCA Insurance renewal 1/1/2021**

##### **Insurance market:**

Insurers hate uncertainty as it affects their ability to price policies. Hence in 2020 the market has gone hard; in other words insurers are mostly willing to renew existing policies but loathe taking on new business. In 2019 the BMC £9.3m pay-out affected the appetite of insurers to enter the outdoor sports market and that is still the case. Climbing walls in particular have seen an escalation in claims in last two years.

##### **Pricing:**

All policies bar one have been renewed at existing prices. The one exception is the additional £5m liability cover policy which has increased by £1,500 following a large settlement of an outdoor sporting claim in USA. We went to market and could find NO insurer willing to take on the cover at any price. I have instructed our brokers Howden's to find an alternative during 2021 year. Hence the total cost of cover has increased across all policies including insurance tax from £48,500 to £50,100. (Less than budget 2021)

##### **Scope:**

There has been a small increase in scope of the cyber policy, otherwise remain as before

##### **Claims:**

We have had 2 liability claims in the last quarter of 2020 which was unfortunate timing. One claim has been dismissed, the other claim should have triggered a premium increase due to its magnitude but we negotiated the price increase away. Underwriters have created a reserve against possible pay-out and the claim continues. There is a £2,500 excess on every claim.

##### **Payment terms:**

Due to the uncertainty of member numbers in 2021 we have negotiated a payment plan which sees us pay 80% of the estimated monthly premium until May 2021 when we will calculate the accurate premium and adjust accordingly. We pay for the policy in monthly instalments.

##### **Rebates and no claims bonus:**

If the policy pays out on the remaining claim we will not receive the no claims rebate for 2020, value £1,500.

The discussion continues on a rebate for 2020 due to reduced activity levels; however the 2 claims received have not helped the discussion.

##### **Renewal:**

Was completed on the above terms. The new documentation has been posted on the BCA website for 2021 and the employees sent their certificates too.

The two top up premiums have been paid at £20k, whereas the main premium is paid in monthly instalments.

### Claims

We have two potential claims which we are discussing with the underwriters. BCA will pay the excess on the first claim by agreement and can decide whether to pay the second excess or not. Excess is £2,500.

One claim has been rejected several months ago and we have heard nothing since. The property has been repaired. No reserve has been set by the under writer and if we hear nothing more then the file will be closed at the end of March 2021.

The second claim has been challenged and we are awaiting a response. A reserve has been created by the under writers.

Until both claims are concluded without cost we won't receive our no claims bonus for 2020

### Brexit

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

HJJ January 2021

### BCA Training Officer

Statement to BCA Council February 2021

Many see the role of the BCA training officer is to be responsible for ensuring safe and best caving practices are understood widely and applied consistently within the BCA. I am able to do this with my 30+ years of professional caver training, excellent relationships with all the manufacturers and an open door with all club training officers, club coaches and CIC holders. I continue to respond to all those cavers who approach me for guidance and clarification of all training matters in BCA.

Also in my capacity as the BCA training officer, I sit on the QMC in a supportive role and take part in their discussions about professional qualifications and training. I pass information between the QMC and the BCA training committee and this liaison works very well. I have dealt with many concerns from BCA members and personal opinions and have tried my best to discover the facts and to be fair. It has been a long and tiring process, however I do feel that we are now very close to having things in as good a place as is possible.

Both the QMC and the BCA training committee are now fully functional and the results show in their reports. I have not had one person come to me with a concern of any confusion between roles within and outputs from these two admirable and hard working groups. My advice is that people not involved directly with training should allow those who are on the inside to get on with their work, enjoying trust and support from the wider community.

What is needed is common and accepted practice in BCA. There will always be different ways to do things and as long as they are safe, effective and efficient, they should be



accepted as appropriate caving practices. There may be 5-star methods that are generally regarded as 'the best' way to do things, however we must embrace the variety which exists and persuade those who say 'you must do this' to widen their perspective and understand the range of what is on offer in BCA.

The BCA Executive's document on training presented last December was not ready for voting on the motions which it contained. I and others had requested more time so that we could consult and report back but it was rushed through and not understood clearly enough by too many people. This showed, amongst other ways, in the number of abstaining on the votes in Council. It does not bode well for the AGM either if members at large obtain an impression of outcomes being driven rather than obtained consensually.

My wish as the BCA training officer is for the February Council meeting to set aside the votes taken on the Executive's proposals at the December Council meeting. The oversight group idea may work in the future if positions and duties change, however I advised the Executive against setting it up because the QMC and BCA training committee already have linkage in place which is working fine.

The support that these groups need from BCA is someone independent to check and approve the final drafts of any publications. The chair of QMC and the BCA training officer will be involved with preparatory writing so there is no need for it all to be discussed again by some oversight group. BCA simply needs to protect its wider interests and to provide the benefit of fresh perspective on training through a suitably qualified or competent appointed person.

It would be better practice if future proposed changes to BCA's training offering were seen to have come from the BCA training officer and the BCA Executive acting in unison. In terms of a practical way forward from where we find ourselves now on training matters, I would propose as the BCA training officer that the BCA council meeting on February 2nd 2021 should vote on these motions:

- (1) "To set aside all votes taken at the December 2020 council meeting in relation to the proposal prepared by BCA Executive on the future structure of training within BCA"
- (2) "To accept the BCA Training Officer's reports which were skipped at both the November and December council meetings and now to properly consider the matters arising from them as soon as is practical and then vote on the four proposals and the subsidiary implementation options that these reports had suggested."

Nigel Atkins

#### **Equipment & Techniques Officer report to January 2021 council meeting**

Lima engineering have now cut and machined 717 of the new batch of IC anchors approved at the last council meeting, but await finishing (the factory at about half strength due to COVID restrictions).

In the short term, the CNCC have kindly confirmed they will distribute IC anchors in numbered batches of 25 to any RCC that requested them, with the proviso that they will be replaced when the new manufactured batch are available.

We have had correspondence raising concerns that BSI standards to which equipment is tested do not necessarily cover carabiner designs that have curvatures with small radii. Given its context of well-established standards, it is not considered an issue of immediate concern, but it is currently under discussion by the E&T group and we will report back to the next Council meeting.

Mark Sims  
E&T convener

### **FSE delegate report to BCA Council Meeting February 2021.**

#### **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.

#### **Last General Assembly Meeting of the FSE (GAM) 2020**

The GAM was held as a virtual meeting in August. Full details of the meeting and decisions can be found in the GAM minutes on the FSE web site.

#### **BCA decision to remain in the FSE**

The FSE bureau were delighted to hear that the BCA voted unanimously at the last council meeting to remain a member of the FSE. The effect of the pandemic has meant that there has been a reduction in demand for Eurospeleo Project grants this year. Therefore, the UK along with the other 30 member countries will pay a reduced subscription this year as recognition of far less projects.

#### **European Cavers Youth Congress in 2022**

There has been a positive response from 11 FSE member countries to the idea of a Youth Congress in 2022. The FSE bureau is chasing up those who haven't responded.

#### **Next Year's FSE GAM**

The 2021 GAM will be held at the 18<sup>th</sup> UIS/International Congress of Speleology (ICS) in July/August in Le Bourget du Lac, France which will celebrate 'The international year of the cave and karst.' (IYCK).

#### **FSE proposal for IYCK**

- Introducing a Youth award to encourage attendance & participation from younger cavers at the ICS in Le Bourget du Lac, France. Criteria will be those involved in original exploration or scientific aspects of speleology or both.
- The FSE will host the next Eurospeleo Forum (annual FSE event) in France this year as part of the ICS.
- The European Cave Protection Commission will host the 6<sup>th</sup> Eurospeleo Protection Symposium in October this year in Germany.

- The call for the 2021 Eurospeleo Protection label (award) has gone out. (It would be great if a UK project could compete for this especially in the IYCK year).

(The only caveat is that the above will depend on the outcome of the current pandemic).

#### **Future FSE Eurospeleo Forums.**

2022 Burgos Spain

2023 Sicily

**Ged Campion FSE Delegate for the BCA.**

**Paul Botcherby Vice Delegate.**

#### Radon Working Group

"Apologies I've not followed up just yet on some of the actions presented during the last Council meeting, I'm afraid my workloads been challenging! In the next few weeks I'll arrange an online meeting with those interested to discuss the action points raised from the last Council meeting.

As a working group we've completed a training module for those working within the leadership award scheme.

This includes a 30min video presentation followed by a test paper which if successful will provide the candidate a certificate to help evidence their awareness of the radon hazard within a works context. The link to the Google Classroom has been made available to award holders (<https://classroom.google.com/c/MTc2MzIxMDI1ODYz?cjc=7odn7no>) we've had over 300 award holders interact with the session so far and note Radon Underground is currently the most downloaded document from the BCA website. "

All the best

Gethin Thomas

#### CRow

Nothing has happened on the CROW case since the last meeting. We are still waiting for news from the Court of Appeal.

David Rose

#### Newsletter

I am waiting to see what happens with the lifting of lockdown before committing to a newsletter. There doesn't seem much point until then. When I do try to produce one, its theme will be caving after the coronavirus onslaught.

David Rose

# **QMC report to Council - February 2021**

**2020** – A year of ups and downs for the BCA award schemes.

## **Positives:**

The launch of a hugely successful candidate management system. The culmination of years of planning and work, and now operating well.

However, with so few opportunities for instructed or led caving since the launch in September, many award holders had yet to engage with the system until recently. Two initiatives have been instrumental in encouraging them to 'log on' for the first time.

1. Radon – Following the circulation of Radon Underground, Gethin Thomas has put together an informative and suitably challenging Radon training package, as one route to fulfil HSE requirements. All award holders have been invited to undertake this training. On a personal level I want to thank Gethin for this excellent resource, which has been well received.
2. Update workshops – In December, the first online CIC and LCMLA update workshops were planned, with pilot courses successfully run. With a 'pool' of ideas from those who ran the initial workshops, guidelines have been drawn up and distributed to trainer/assessors who feel that they have the necessary IT skills to successfully deliver courses in this way. A recent mail shot through QMS encouraged many award holders to log on for the first time and the much needed bookings are now arriving.

## **Negatives:**

Financial – Income for running the awards comes from three main sources:

1. Registrations - With the enforced closedown of outdoor education centres over the past 10 months, there have been practically no new registrations.
2. Update workshops – Until recently there has been little opportunity for practical update workshops to run. Thus, we now find ourselves with a backlog of award holders whose awards are technically 'out of date'. With online workshops now advertised, we should recoup some of the income lost from last year. Extra workshops have been advertised to facilitate this.
3. Trainer/Assessor fees. Fees for this year have been reduced by 1/3<sup>rd</sup>, to reflect that TAs had minimal opportunity to run any courses last year. Despite this reduction, 4 of our TAs have resigned.

Our major expenditure is the employment costs attached to our excellent training administrator. Although there has been a notable drop in the amount of general work for Mary Wilde due to Covid 19, it has freed up her time to assist both award holders and trainer assessors when they first engage with the QMS system.

Expenditure savings this year have included:

1. Reduced travel – all QMC meetings have been online
2. Reduced costs for administrative materials – logbooks, postage etc.

These savings will be ongoing.

**Juliet Parker-Smith**

**BCA UIS Report**

**for meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**

My last report on 26<sup>th</sup> November for the BCA meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December started with uncertainties reference Covid and the International Congress and the Year of Caves and Karst.

The International Congress for this July in France is still uncertain. There was a French Speleological Federation/UIS meeting last Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> which decided that the current situation is they are going to go ahead this July with the Congress but they may still change to partly virtual or delay for a year. Final/final decision at a meeting the end of March.

Apparently some countries are stating they are locked down until the end of 2021!!!

The Year of Caves and Karst is Definitely going ahead and there is an opening ceremony in a virtual guise next week on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

Covid continues to cause problems across the world, please watch websites to see what is happening.

<https://uis-speleo.org>

<https://ffspeleo.fr>

<http://www.iyck2021.org>

I will report the latest information verbally at the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

**Andy Eavis**

**23rd January 2021.**