



Council Meeting Tuesday 25th May 2021 Minutes

via Zoom

19.15 pm to 21:15 pm

Table of Contents:

Agenda item	Page	Agenda item summary
1		Apologies for absence
2		Acceptance of Minutes from 30/03/2021 Council Meeting
3		Matters Arising/Action List
4		Chairman's Report
5		Secretaries Report
6		BCA Treasurer Report
7		BCA Insurance Managers report
8		Membership
9		Other Reports
10		Training Officer Report
11		Ash Die Back
12		CRoW
13		Newsletter
14		AOB
15		Date of Next Meeting
Appendices		
1		Cavefest Funding Vote

Next Meeting Important Agenda Items

Next Council Meeting Thursday 15th July 2021 7.15 pm

Followed by a further Council Meeting on Tuesday 27th July 2021 at 7.15pm

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Council Positions, Attendance and Report Status Table

Voting Positions

Position	Name	Initials	Atn	Report	
			(Y/N)	Last	New
BCA Executive					
Chairman (Acting) (2018-2021) 3 years	Russell Myers	RM	Y	25/05/2021	y
Secretary (Acting) (2019-2022) 3 years	Allan Richardson	AR	Y	25/05/21	y
Treasurer (2020 - 2023) 3 years	Howard Jones	HJJ	Y	25/05/2021	y
Group/Club Representatives					
Position 1 - (2019-2021 - 2 years)	Hellie Adams	HA	N		
Position 2 - (2019-2021 - 2 years)	Josh White	JW	N	25/05/21	y
Position 3 - (2020-2022 - 2 years)	Lydia Leather	LL	N		
Position 4 - (2020-2022 - 2 years)	Idris Williams	IW	Y		
Individual Member Representatives					
Position 1 - (2019-2021 - 2 years)	Pete Knight	PK	Y		
Position 2 - (2019-2021 - 2 years)	Martin Hoff (See notes)	MF	Y		

Position 3 - (2020-2022 - 2 years)	Jenny Potts	JP	Y	25/05/21	y
Position 4 - (2020-2022 - 2 years)	Andrew McLeod	AMcL	Y		
Chairs of Standing Committees					
Training Officer (2018-2021 - 3 years)	Nigel Atkins	NA	Y	25/05/2021	y
Equipment and Techniques Officer (2020- 2023 -3 years) Co-opted	Mark Sims	MS	N	25/05/2021	y
Conservation & Access Officer (2019 – 2022 - 3 years)	Will Burn	WB	Y	30/03/2021	n
Publications & Information Officer	Rostam Namaghi	RN	Y	25/05/2021	y
Regional Council Representatives					
Cambrian Caving Council	John Sheehy	JS	Y		
Council of Northern Caving Clubs	Andrew Hinde	AH	N		
Council of Southern Caving Clubs	Ed Waters	EW	Y		
Derbyshire Caving Association	Wayne Sheldon	WS	Y		
Devon and Cornwall Underground Council	David Jean	DJ	Y		

Constituent Body Representatives					
William Pengelly Cave Studies Trust	Richard Vooght	RV	N		
Association of Caving Instructors	Stephan Natynczuk	SN	Y		
National Caving Scout Active Support Unit	Tony Radmall	TR	N		
British Cave Research Association	John Gunn	JG	Y		
National Association of Mining History Organisations	Steve Holding	SH	Y		
Council of Higher Education Caving Clubs	Jennifer Ryder	JR	Y		
Cave Diving Group	Claire Cohen	CC	N		
British Cave Rescue Council	Emma Porter	EP	N		

Non -Voting Positions

Position	Name	Initials	Atn	Report	
			(Y/N)	Last	New
Working Group Convenors					
Information Technology	Ari Cooper- Davis	ACD	N	18/08/2020	n
Youth and Development	Josh White	JW	N	25/05/2021	y
CRoW Annual	David Rose	DR	Y	25/05/2021	y

Qualifications Management Committee (QMC)	Juliet Parker-Smith	JPS	N	25/05/2021	y
Vision	Hellie Adams	HA	N		
Radon	Gethin Thomas	GT	Y	25/05/21	y
Additional BCA Appointments					
Insurance Manager	Howard Jones	HJJ	Y	25/05/2021	y
Membership Administrator	Wendy Williams	WW	N	25/05/2021	y
Safeguarding Officer	Chris Boardman	CB	Y		
Training Administrator	Mary Wild	MW	N		
Library Representative	Jenny Potts	JP	Y	25/05/2021	y
Newsletter Editor	David Rose	DR	Y		
UIS Representative	Andy Eavis	AE	Y	25/05/2021	y
FSE Representative	Ged Campion	GC	Y	2025/05/21	y
Rope Testing	Vacant				
Artificial Cave	Katie Eavis	KE	N		
QMC Representative 1	Vacant				
QMC Representative 2	Chris Boardman	CB	Y		
Observers					
	Robert Scott	RS	Y		
	Mike Higgins	MH	Y		

Agenda item 1: Apologies for absence.

Andrew Hinde, Lydia Leather, Linda Wilson, Stuart France, Josh White, Juliet Parker-Smith.

Agenda item 2: Acceptance of the 30th March 2021 Meeting Minutes

No changes.

Proposed RM

2nd AR

All in favour Accepted

Agenda item 3: Matters arising/Action Plan

Cavefest vote went against them, details in the Appendices.

Action plan

Issue	Who	By when	Signed off
Radon group – formation of a Working Group to consider further survey work.	GT	Summer Season	
Contribution to Mick Day Memorial	Secretary	As required	
Distribution of IC Anchors by CNCC	AH	02/02/2020	
Formation of Working Group to Review QMC	SF	Before the AGM	
<u>Vote recording</u>	<u>RN</u>	<u>Next meeting</u>	
<u>Reports system</u>	<u>RN</u>	<u>Next meeting</u>	

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Agenda item 4: Chair's Report

Reports about Ash Die Back at Item 10 and the result of the Cavefest Vote in the Appendix

The Chairman reported to the meeting that Andy Eavis had been awarded the 2021 Royal Geographical Society Founders medal, for his significant contribution to worldwide cave [exploration.iag](#).

Andy spoke to the meeting to say that it was an important recognition of the large numbers of UK cavers who have caved worldwide. Hopefully it would also serve to raise the profile of caving in the UK and may also help with the CRoW case Zoom applause.

There were no questions for the Chairman.

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Agenda item 5: BCA Secretaries Report

I have received very few statements of “Conflicts of Interest” I have declared my own to the Chairman.

On behalf of BCA I have agreed to accept 5 complimentary copies of John Volanthen’ s book “Thirteen lessons which saved Thirteen Lives” , to use as we wish, I am sure the BCA Library will be in line for one copy.

The publisher has also offered an extract to use in our newsletter.

The Secretary reported to the meeting that the Officer reporting system needs to be overhauled, the suggestion is the use of a dedicated area for each Officer on the Website, each Officer to complete their report online, these will then be compiled into the Agenda. RN volunteered to look into this.

Action RN to look into Council members reporting areas on the website.

Still awaiting action from RN on action from Mar 30th meeting

There were no questions for the Secretary.

Agenda item 6: BCA Treasurer Report

Current bank balances: as at 13/05/2021 was £265,000. 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.

Unusual spend since last Council:

CNCC regional claim 2020 £1,250, Radon expenses £2,400,

Income 2021:

An analysis of membership renewals 2021 shows we are 13% down on the 2020 membership figures. If this does not come back we will be £13,000 down on membership income budgeted for the year .Since lock down has eased then there is a steady trickle of renewals. If we don’t catch up in the coming months then our membership income will be the lowest for a number of years.

Forecast 2021:

November 2020 Council meeting approved a budget for 2021 which had a deficit of £20,000. It had no allowance for any CRoW legal costs in 2021 beyond the £30k spent in 2020. Since then we have won the appeal and Council agreed to increase the legal budget from £60k to £90k. If therefore the case goes the distance and we lose, the deficit for 2021 would be £70k. If we win then up to £35k of our costs would be re-funded. If our income does not recover (see above) the deficit could be closer to £100k for the year, which would leave BCA with net assets of around £100k, a £150k reduction in 2 years.

BCA accounts result for 2020

These were approved at the last Council meeting and will be presented to the AGM in October accordingly. I have submitted our tax return to HMRC which shows a loss for the period of course.

Regional accounts:

CNCC claim received, reviewed by BCA Finance Committee and paid.

CRow financial situation.

A previous Council meeting agreed we could spend up to £90k 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 have incurred to date will be refunded. At present we are within budget with the proceedings.

HJJ May 2021.

There were no questions for the Treasurer.

Agenda Item 7: BCA Insurance Manager's report

BCA Insurance Managers report to BCA Council May 2021

Liability policy Renewal 2021:

The only item outstanding here was to declare our membership statistics in April 2021 and adjust the monthly payments accordingly. As we are operating under a temporary membership administration I have delayed this till end June 2021

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 by the landowner. 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 June 2021.

The second claim has been challenged by us and we sent a series of queries in November 2020 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

Landowner indemnity

As reported at the last Council meeting we have been looking to extend the BCA public liability policy. I am pleased to report we have been successful. This is quite a result given we are increasing under writers liability to cover an estimated number of people who are not BCA members (the insured party) and we are not offering to pay a higher premium for the privilege. The fact we have succeeded is due to a number of factors including an excellent claim record, good relations ships with the broker and under writer and efforts back and forth between all parties since the New Year. I would like to thank Mike Farrell our broker for his efforts and Nick Williams my predecessor.

The following definition of 'the insured' has been added to the policy in the 'indemnity to principals' section:

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Any landowner or occupier who enters into an agreement with BCA or a BCA member organisation in order to permit access to caves on their land.

And the insured risk has been agreed as:

Any incident arising from the actions of cavers on the property of a landowner or occupier who has agreed to permit access to caves or abandoned mines on their land.

An updated paragraph that will go in the TWIMC letter is attached below to satisfy landowners who have been party to an access agreement:.

Updated TWIMC excerpt : (note we are awaiting final wording from the under writer)

If, as a result of the insured activities, any party brings a claim, which falls within the scope of 'What is covered, Claims against you', or non BCA members who have been granted permission to access the land, are liable for that claim, we will treat such claim as if made against you and make the same payment to that we would have made to you, provided

- a. has not, in insurers reasonable opinion, caused or contributed to the claim against them;
- b. accepts that your insurer can control the claim's defence and settlement in accordance with the terms of the policy;
- c. has not admitted liability or prejudiced the defence of the claim before insurers are notified of it;

gives insurers the information and co-operation reasonably required in order for them to deal with the claim

Brexit

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

HJJ May 2021

There were no questions for the Insurance Manager.

Agenda Item 8 Membership

BCA Membership report for BCA Council May 2021

In February 2021 Wendy Williams BCA Membership administrator had a stroke. She had been in an acute stroke ward but is now back home. We expect she will be off work for the foreseeable future. I have liaised between Les and BCA payroll accordingly.

As previously reported the role has been divided between a number of us. You can see separate reports from Katie Eavis covering clubs and CIMs and one from David Gibson covering DIMs.

As can be seen we are around 15% down on membership numbers compared to 2020. Since lock downs have eased there has been a steady trickle of members re-joining.

Katie has picked up the role well and between the 3 of us we are dealing with all queries in a timely manner.

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We have an outstanding issue with the sending out of membership cards once paid but we are working to resolve that

Between Katie and David we have now sent our reminders to all 2020 members who have yet to renew, mostly electronically but some by mail.

David has done good work tweaking the current system for issues as and when we report them to him

HJJ 13052021

Howard reported to the meeting that he had been in discussion with Les and Wendy over possible rehab routes over the coming months.
Our numbers are currently about 10% down.

The following report did not go out with the Agenda.

BCA club membership report.

Katie Eavis – temporary membership administrator

7th May 2021

Club Membership work

Club renewals and updates continue to come in via email and these are all dealt with swiftly and emails replied to quickly. Other enquiries are also dealt with regarding how to join, insurance cover and the different types of group membership. There are frequent games of email ‘pass the parcel’ with David Gibson as we get to grips with who should be dealing with which emails.

Club secretaries are getting increasing eager (as lockdown eases) to have membership cards and I get at least 5 emails per week chasing these.

I am keeping track of all payments due since I took over and also the unpaid ‘group’ payments from January and Early February when Wendy was processing the applications. I collect and log the cheques once a week, and pay them in monthly. The bank account is checked about 3 times per week. Due to convoluted club payment systems I wait a month before chasing up payments. Most, however as paying up swiftly without any reminders. Unfortunately, I currently have no record of CIM payments due for renewals or updates in the early part of the year so cannot check these and chase them up as necessary.

2020 vs 2021 Membership levels

	2020 (up until 31 st December)	2021 (up until 7 th May)
Groups (including Member Clubs, Associates and Access Controlling Bodies)	166	150
CIMs (including Cavers, Non-Cavers, Students, Under 18s and CDG)	5308	4622

2021 Clubs who have not renewed.

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At the end of April I emailed all clubs who were BCA members in 2020 but who hadn't yet renewed in 2021. There were 25 of these. In response 3 have now renewed, 3 confirmed they are not renewing either at all in 2021 or at this time and 4 have indicated an intention to renew soon. The other 15 have not responded. I will email these 15 another reminder in early June.

Things still to do

- Card Printing. To the best of my knowledge about 200 cards for CIMs and groups have been printed and sent out. Currently there are about 550 Group and CIM cards awaiting printing and posting.
- Online System. In the two weeks between Wendy falling ill and me taking over club membership work Ari worked very hard on an online system. However since then Ari has been busy elsewhere and the system hasn't evolved. ^{SEP}As it stands I am using the system to compliment all the spreadsheets Wendy kept up to date, but have not been able to replace the spreadsheets yet. For example I am unable to add new members with new membership numbers to the online system, add new clubs or change individual members names.
- Track down the CIM payments due either for renewals or updates in January/ early February this year and then check them against payments received and chase as necessary.

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DIM Membership Report

Here is my report, with apologies for the delay. Its in Word and PDF versions, but you are also welcome to summarise it for circulation, if you wish. The essence of it is...

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At the time of writing, all DIM membership applications received by 16 May 2021 have been 'processed'. That essentially means that the transaction log has been checked and the applications confirmed by email 'where possible'. However, no DIM membership cards have been issued since Wendy's last batch in mid-February. The number of cards issued by Wendy was 264 so, from the figure given below, there are about 350 DIM cards still to be printed and mailed. The headline membership figure is that there are 607 DIM members, compared with 710 this time last year. That might be a more realistic comparison than looking at the year-end figure, which is 784 members because BCA traditionally has a high turnover of members, with a large number of casual members joining throughout the year and then not renewing. However, that might not be the case this year of course. A detailed breakdown of the figures is given in the report.

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~~David Gibson~~

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Agenda Item 9: Other Reports

Radon Working Group Report to Council: May 2021

Following the last Council meeting an invitation was sent out to Council members to discuss a range of topics relating to radon.

Three key actions came from this meeting:

- Recognition that radon is a risk, the risk can be measured, however there is a need for a frame of reference for recreational cavers. Based on household levels, exposure at work levels, exposure to x-rays or other health related machines.
- Action: Radon Working Group to produce an “info-graphic” to help cavers qualify the radon-__risk.
- Further discussions needed to understand potential issues for Access Controlling Bodies so that a well-researched question can be presented to an appropriately qualified and independent solicitor.
- Agreed it would be preferable to provide access to further sampling, but work needs to progress on some way to present the results in a meaningful and qualified way

Gethin Thomas
Radon Working Group Convenor
18 May 2021

There were no questions to the Radon working group.

BCA UIS Report **for meeting on Tuesday 25th May 2021**

The International Year of Caves and Karst is still moving along. There are a number of events and happenings being relayed on the internet. Please look at the UIS website to see what is happening: <https://uis-speleo.org>

Further to my last report, the International Congress has been delayed until July next year, 24th – 31st July 2022.

The International Year of Caves and Karst has been extended until the end of the congress, the year will in fact will be nearly 19 months.

BCRA continues its monthly lecture series which is the joint bracket of BCRA and the International Year of Caves and Karst.

As mentioned in the last report, covid continues to change all planning, so please look on the websites:

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<https://uis-speleo.org>
<https://ffspeleo.fr>
<http://www.iyck2021.org>

The other thing to report is the venue for the International Congress in 2025 is being discussed and will be voted on this summer, the only applicant at the moment is Brazil, it did hold the congress once before in Brasilia in 2001.

For 2029 it should be back in Europe, maybe the United Kingdom could be a contender for that??

Andy Eavis
17th May 2021

There were no questions re the UIS report

Constitution and Operations Group Report to BCA Council 16/05/2021

Since I was appointed as Convenor of this working group at the last Council meeting, we have held two meetings of the COG group. We are currently working on a number of projects, most of which will not involve proposals at the BCA AGM in October, as the deadline is fast approaching and there is no desire to rush into poorly considered and consulted piecemeal constitutional changes. We have created the COG group page on the BCA website, and have sent out a consultation relating to Section 10.1 of the BCA Constitution (detailed below). In the longer term, we may propose constitutional changes at future AGMs and help to manage and revise the Manual of Operations.

This Council meeting is (as far as I know) the last Council meeting before the deadline for proposals (Monday 26th July), immediately preceding the Council meeting on Tuesday 27th July. Therefore, this may be the last Council meeting to consider proposals before they need to be submitted to the AGM (despite the AGM being around 5 months away).

Section 10.1

The 2020 BCA AGM required BCA Council to propose a new form of words to replace Section 10.1 of the BCA Constitution. This consultation will run until at least 30th May.

Complaint and Disciplinary Procedures

The BCA complaint procedures, and accompanying disciplinary procedures, would benefit greatly from considerable revision, and a team is working to revise these. This will continue, and drafts will be presented to Council in due course.

Standing committees and working groups

A team is looking at the organization of the BCA, examining the interplay of the standing committees, working groups and BCA Council, and seeing how the organization can be simplified and improved. This project will also be ongoing and will not be ready to produce proposals for the 2021 AGM.

Section 8: AGM proposals, timelines and procedures

There are various elements of Section 8 of the BCA Constitution, which relate to the operation of BCA AGMs, which would benefit from revision to ensure running AGMs is a robust and transparent process in the era of online or partly online AGMs and Council meetings. This work is ongoing; it is possible some proposals may be produced for the 2021 AGM but the bulk of the work is likely to carry over to next year.

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Conflict of Interest Policy

BCA Council recently voted to approve Conflict of Interest rules for council members. BCA Council could consider bringing these Conflict of Interest rules to the BCA AGM, which would make it an official 'BCA Policy.'

Section 10.1 Consultation

At the time of writing, the consultation has received 30 proposals (with one club having voted twice). This is not enough to be representative of the wider BCA membership; looking at the responses with time, different blocks of opinion can be seen which are likely due to the consultation being advertised to different groups of cavers (for example, 11 of 13 of one first choice option were all submitted on a consecutive block of 3 days out of the 10, with only one different response during that block). Currently, the leading option is to leave Section 10.1 unchanged, with the second most popular choice being to amend it, which is surprising given the overwhelming vote following the last BCA AGM in favour of considering changing Section 10.1. However, it is informative to look at the individual responses identifying the strengths and weaknesses of Section 10.1.

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Once the consultation has been completed with hopefully a larger (and therefore more representative sample) of cavers responding, a short report will be produced and distributed to Council. Depending on the advice from Council at this meeting, a new form (or several new forms) of words will be proposed and submitted before the AGM deadline.

In many cases, it is hard to see how Section 10.1 directly relates to autonomy, which is enshrined in Section 2.1 of the BCA Constitution. Since 'interference' is not defined, what Section 10.1 means in real terms is very hard to specify. The clause is unclear, and at minimum it should be revised to be much more specific. However, there are strong feelings in both directions; while some cavers wish for greater accountability on member bodies many feel strongly that autonomy must be preserved; a compromise that more clearly sets the limits of the BCA and member bodies, while not preventing the BCA from carrying out the will of its membership, should be written.

Proposals:

Section 10.1 proposals

Section 10.1 currently reads "The Association shall not interfere in the affairs of a Member unless specifically requested to do so by that Member. The Association shall not mediate between Members unless requested by them in writing to do so".

Possible suggestions, as proposals:

- Present a set of options at the AGM to either remove the section entirely, leave it alone, or replace with a new form of words to be written based on responses to the consultation.
- Remove the first line of Section 10.1, but leave the second line. Interference is poorly defined and, as written, this line only causes confusion — section 2.1 of the Constitution already defines the Association as a federation where all members have autonomy in their own field. This

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- Change ‘unless requested by them in writing’ to ‘unless requested by one of them in writing’ to reduce ambiguity.

- Remove the entire section and move into the Manual of Operations with text to be written. Conflict of Interest proposal

- Bring the Conflict of Interest document to the BCA AGM for approval as a BCA Policy.

Andrew McLeod

EW questioned the 30th May 21 deadline, AM gave a quick report on the ongoing consultation, they**Constitution and Operations Group**

Report to BCA Council 16/05/2021

Since I was appointed as Convenor of this working group at the last Council meeting, we have held two meetings of the COG group. We are currently working on a number of projects, most of which will not involve proposals at the BCA AGM in October, as the deadline is fast approaching and there is no desire to rush into poorly-considered and consulted piecemeal constitutional changes.

We have created the COG group page on the BCA website, and have sent out a consultation relating to Section 10.1 of the BCA Constitution (detailed below). In the longer term, we may proposed consitutional changes at future AGMs and help to manage and revise the Manual of Operations.

This Council meeting is (as far as I know) the last Council meeting before the deadline for proposals (Monday 26th July), immediately preceding the Council meeting on Tuesday 27th July. Therefore, this may be the last Council meeting to consider proposals before they need to be submitted to the AGM (despite the AGM being around 5 months away).

Section 10.1

The 2020 BCA AGM required BCA Council to propose a new form of words to replace Section 10.1 of the BCA Constitution. This consultation will run until at least 30th May.

Complaint and Disciplinary Procedures

The BCA complaint procedures, and accompanying disciplinary procedures, would benefit greatly from considerable revision, and a team is working to revise these. This will continue, and drafts will be presented to Council in due course.

Standing committees and working groups

A team is looking at the organization of the BCA, examining the interplay of the standing committees, working groups and BCA Council, and seeing how the organization can be simplified and improved. This project will also be ongoing and will not be ready to produce proposals for the 2021 AGM.

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Section 8: AGM proposals, timelines and procedures

There are various elements of Section 8 of the BCA Constitution, which relate to the operation of BCA AGMs, which would benefit from revision to ensure running AGMs is a robust and transparent process in the era of online or partly online AGMs and Council meetings. This work is ongoing; it is possible some proposals may be produced for the 2021 AGM but the bulk of the work is likely to carry over to next year.

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- Remove the entire section and move into the Manual of Operations with text to be written.

Conflict of Interest proposal

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Andrew McLeod

EW questioned the 30th May 21 deadline, AMcL gave a quick report on the ongoing consultation, they have received 36 replies so far and thought another week or so to the deadline to catch any further replies.

AB and AMcL plan to bring a proposal to the next Council meeting.

Josh White

Youth & Development 25 May 2021

Youth & Development Report

May 2021 BCA Council Meeting

CHECC

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After the success of the first 8 Yoga for Cavers sessions, Rob Watson arranged for a further 8 sessions to be arranged with a simplified sign-up process. These classes continue to be available for all cavers both at the time, and after by being uploaded to Youtube. The CHECC committee have split caving clubs into regions of the UK and held smaller meetings with the delegates that I was present at. I feel like I've now got a full understanding on what potential issues lie ahead, and will be meeting with the CHECC committee in order to formulate a plan that is tailored to the various clubs to help them come out the other side of lockdown. Some ideas currently floating about to tackle specific issues include training on checking club PPE, funding available for replacement of PPE where university clubs are unable to, storing heavy kit (such as carabiners and SRT kits) in all regions to enable clubs who have to travel by public transport to have effective weekends.

Many clubs are going to be struggling for experience, and CHECC will be working hard to ensure that clubs share experience. I would also urge any alumni who have perhaps fallen out of touch with their former clubs to reach out and see if they can help in any way.

Website Development

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Our minutes and reports continue to be uploaded to the working group page on the BCA website. We are preparing further updates which will happen in the coming weeks.

The first of a series of articles focused around things youth and development has been sent to the publications team for publishing on the website. There will be further articles on their way, with the aim of inspiring people to promote diversity and inclusion.

Experience Caving

In previous reports I hinted at a future project aimed at getting young people caving. I am now in a position to share some details of this, with the view that further information will be sent out in due course. The idea has two parts; introduce young people into caving and create a community of young cavers around the UK.

Y&D MAY 2021 REPORT 1

Experience caving weekends will be club run weekends aimed at 13-17 year olds, with the appropriate vetting of adults undertaken. BCA will support these weekends to ensure that they are free for the participant, without the host club losing money.

Previous 'try caving' weekends, in my opinion did not achieve what they set out to do, as they struggled to expand the circle of people exposed to the sport. As such I am proposing a social media advertising campaign. This campaign will point people in the direction of the new to caving website, where a centralised calendar will enable people to see what events are running near them and when. To the right, is an example of a facebook ad that could be part of this campaign. The campaign would also produce content for an Instagram page in order to show a full picture of what caving is about.

Before we can start advertising and running weekends we will reach out and contact clubs in order to get some weekends organised. This will include a presentation about the weekends and the benefits of them, but also a support pack for clubs in order to prepare themselves to be able to run them.

Diversity & Inclusion

Lisa Crow recently attended the Outdoor Recreation Network's conference on diversity and inclusion. Thanks to Andrew Hinde of CNCC who made Y&D aware of this conference. Lisa took comprehensive notes, which will be drafted into a report with recommendations and considerations for BCA as an organisation as well as BCA groups and individual members to ensure that they're being as inclusive as possible, in line with the association's diversity and inclusion policy. We hope to have this report circulated in advance of the next council meeting.

Josh White

Youth & Development 25 May 2021

Y&D MAY 2021 REPORT 2

HJJ reported that he had spoken to JW re budgeting, the outcome was that it would come within the scope of the 2021~~12~~ budget.

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Covid Plan

Rostam Namaghi

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Note these are actions for the cautious re-opening phase.

Division of BCA	Actions Done	Actions Pending
The Executive	Covid Timeline Advice	
Publications & Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Covid Timeline published -Fitness for caving campaign: advertising and podcasts recorded and made available -record podcast series (3 done) -AGM Timeline published -Constitutional drafting support for LUPC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Publishing the AGM Proposal and Candidate Portal (built) -Conduct Membership Survey (this has a covid consultation within it)
Youth & Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continued the yoga sessions -Updated the website -Update on YDG produced -BSCC & LUPC direct support -direct meetings with most university clubs for tailoring support based on issues -Post Covid Training Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Implement the planned targeted training events for student clubs
Conservation & Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No known access restrictions due to Covid-19, website updated with Covid 19 update on Access Page 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continue to update

IT Working Group	-Continued emergency database management	
Training Committee	This Committee should only be meeting to implement previously agreed plans.	
Finance Committee	-Funds made available through planned Y&D and E&T increased expenditure	
Qualifications Management Committee	-Advise BCA on what support may be needed through continued use of the Liaison Group -Advise award holders on restarting work and availability of courses	
Constitution & Operations Group	-Identify any procedural elements stopping an effective eAGM -New webpage (updated) Section 10.1 Consultation	-Proposals for AGM to be submitted.

Proposals required:

- That the targeted Post Covid Training plan be implemented by a meeting by P&I, Y&D and regional Training Officers with the plan to be included in the next Covid Recovery Plan Update.

Proposed RN

2nd WB

1 against, 7 abstentions, 10 in favour.

Proposal passed.

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Library Report to BCA Council, 25 May 2021

The Library is now back in full operation with visitors allowed, one at a time, subject to prior booking. Current coronavirus-related arrangements allow a visitor to work in a separate area so that they do not have to wear a mask but still have access to all our facilities. We continue to deal with many and varied enquiries reaching us, mostly by email, which now make up a large part of our work.

The end of most coronavirus-related restrictions allow us to make use of “caver post” again and a van-load of duplicates is now going down to the Mendips to help re-stock a library damaged by fire. Other deliveries of duplicate material are planned to various clubs in different regions and a number of archive items promised to us will soon be arriving.

We have recently been given access a collection of archive material (photographs and diaries) now in Australia but relating to caving in Britain from 1934: caving with Eli Simpson of BSA and the founding of CRG in 1947. The collection is now online in the BCRA Archives section of the Library website and we are very grateful to the work of Mike Binns in preparing and emailing the scans to us. Mike is the son of Peter Binns, the CRG Treasurer from its foundation in 1947 to 1968,

so the material is of historic importance to British caving and will be the subject of an article in Descent.

Cataloguing of surveys continues apace, thanks to two enthusiastic volunteers, and their work is enabling scans of previously unpublished Peak District surveys to be put online via the DCA website.

We very much miss having Katie Eavis working with us but understand that the BCA Membership system requires urgent help at present. Library cataloguing has to take a back seat for the moment but we hope that Katie will be able to return to work with us in due course.

Jenny Potts
BCRA Library Co-ordinator
16-5-21

No questions to the Library, but they will be happy to accept a copy of [John Volanthen's book "Thirteen lessons which saved Thirteen Lives"](#)

~~John Volanthen's book "Thirteen lessons which saved Thirteen Lives"~~

FSE delegate report to BCA Council Meeting May 2021.

Not much to report since last council meeting

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.

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.

FSE Newsletter

The FSE newsletter was published in April. See attached.

European Cave Protection developments.

A FSE representative has recently been voted onto the European Environmental Board (EEB) for a further year to advise on cave protection measures.

Eurospeleo Projects

The effect of the pandemic has meant that there has been a reduction in demand for Eurospeleo Project grants this year.

European Cavers Youth Congress in 2022

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There has been a positive response from FSE member countries to the idea of a Youth Congress in 2022. Responses are being collated.

FSE General Assembly Meeting (GAM).

Discussions are currently taking place on where and how the FSE GAM will take place this year. (The UIS/International Congress of Speleology (ICS) to be held in Le Bourget du Lac, France has been postponed until next year because of the pandemic and travel restrictions).

Future FSE Eurospeleo Forums.

2022 Le Bourget du Lac, France.

2023 Sicily

Ged Campion FSE Delegate for the BCA.

GB reported to the meeting that WB would be attending the Eurospeleo Conservation meeting in October, in place of JG.

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Equipment & Techniques Officer report to March 2021 council meeting (previously omitted in error from the March meeting.

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The BCA rope testing equipment is currently located at the Bradford Pothole Club hut. Due to planned building work they have indicated it can no longer be kept in this location. Once COVID restrictions allow, Allan Richardson has offered to potentially move it to a building he has access to near Preston. A long-term plan for the equipment needs to be formulated.

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Following the concerns raised about BSI standards (see my report to the last meeting), no concerns were subsequently raised by members E&T group after the information was circulated.

A study (<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.02.04.21251127v1>) on the transmission of COVID via sporting equipment was brought to my attention by Stuart France. After running it past the E&T group, a summary of the study and group members' views was forwarded to Russell who had volunteered to update the BCA COVID guidance.

Having struggled in varying degrees to devote the time to the E&T role that it warrants since taking the role on, I have come to the decision to step down as E&T chair by the 2021 AGM at the latest. Having not knowingly ever been voted into the role at any BCA AGM (this was independently noted by a previous BCA secretary), a sensible time to step down has not arisen since I took on the role. However, changing family circumstances alongside work commitments have prompted this decision now.

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The anchor scheme has been the core focus of the E&T group during the time I have been involved, and I am very pleased that we have moved from a situation of not-insignificant regional animosity and inconsistency to a situation where anchor availability is consistent between all regions, as well as there now being nationwide consistency in the choice of resins.

Having stated my intention to step down I would like to take the opportunity to briefly comment on the future direction of the E&T committee, which seems uncertain at present. My personal view is that BCA would be best served by merging the non-anchoring side of the committee with the Training Committee, leaving an anchoring committee or working group to continue the (necessary) national oversight of the resin anchoring scheme.

Mark Sims E&T convener

RM reported that the rope testing equipment which was currently being stored by AR, it will at some point be moved to a new location.

RN suggested that the E&T group could be subsumed in another group, this would need a proposal to the next AGM.

QMC report to Council – May 2021

- As lockdown restrictions ease, a few training and assessment courses have been run in the various caving/mining regions. However, many Outdoor Centres are yet to re-open and so a large number of award holders are yet to recommence work. QMC continue to advise as and when necessary.
- A few update workshops have now been run ‘face to face’ rather than through an on-line format, with ‘Covid’ risk assessments and control measures in place.
- Belts have been purchased in preparation for the ‘pull tests’ planned by the QMC/Training committee/Equipment committee liaison group. As belts are not items of PPE, they are no longer subject to manufacturers’ testing, thus we aim to test their strength and suitability. We await relocation of BCA’s equipment testing apparatus.
- As the three year term of office for both Chair and Deputy Chair of QMC conclude in November, we have up-dated job descriptions and are planning succession to coincide with September’s AGM, so that the position of QMC convenor can be ratified at this time. All Trainer/Assessors for the LCMLA and CIC schemes will be emailed details of both positions.

Juliet Parker-Smith

Role of QMC

- To operate, develop and administer the Awards Schemes, LCMLA and CIC (latter with advice/guidance of CIC Panel)
- Develop written resources to support award holders, trainer assessors and the general caving community
- Support trainer/assessors and award holders and represent their interests to the BCA, including access agreements nationally and regionally
- Approve the appointment of trainer/assessors for the schemes via regional panels, and establish and operate a continuing validation and approval system for trainer/assessors.
- To deal with applications for exemptions from formal assessment

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- To ensure all trainer/assessors are current in best practice by arranging Trainer assessor workshops and disseminating information via a range of communications
- To ensure enable award holders are aware of current developments by arranging Update Workshops at suitable intervals
- To maintain and disseminate knowledge of best practice in caving and mining esp. related to instructing/coaching and related technical matters.

Chair QMC and Deputy Chair QMC

Job Description for the Chair of the QMC

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Responsible to:

BCA Trainer/Assessors, BCA Executive/Council

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Reporting to:

BCA Executive/Council

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Purpose:

To represent QMC , BCA award holders and Trainer /Assessors for the benefit of all concerned, and for the future development of the BCA Award Schemes

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To lead and manage the QMC which comprises agreed representatives and other members co-opted in agreement with BCA Council

To attend, or nominate a suitable replacement, relevant internal and external meetings and ensure the interests of BCA Award holders and trainer/assessors are represented in all decisions made.

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Responsibilities:

- Represent QMC and the outcomes of meetings at BCA Council and maintain

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communication /mutually beneficial relationships with BCA

- To arrange and Chair QMC meetings to carry out business of the schemes and to ensure a clear and adequate records of all meetings.
- To arbitrate and make decisions regarding reassessments, technical and procedural queries and to resolve disputes relating to individual candidates.
- To liaise and build relationships with associated bodies and those with parity schemes such as JSMT/SUI.
- To oversee the administrative systems, including Line Management for the Training Administrator.
- To authorise all award certificates.
- To oversee/report on the budget for the administration and organisation of the schemes with assistance from Training Admin and BCA Treasurer.
- To oversee the professional standards process for TAs.
- Act in the best interest of the BCA and its constitution.

Committee Role term:

A term of 3 years commitment is required.

SEP

Job Description for the Deputy Chair of the QMC

Responsible to:

Chair of QMC, BCA Trainer/Assessors, BCA Executive/Council

Reporting to:

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Chair of QMC /QMC

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Purpose:

To assist the Chair of QMC in representing QMC , BCA award holders and Trainer /Assessors for the benefit of all concerned, and for the future development of the BCA Award Schemes

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To assist in the management of the QMC which comprises agreed representatives and other members co-opted in agreement with BCA Council

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Responsibilities:

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- Deputise in the absence of the Chair at meetings and other events
- Oversee specific working groups (eg: resources development, radon working group) and report on progress at QMC meetings
- Act in the best interest of the BCA and it's constitution.

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Committee Role term:

A term of 3 years commitment is required.

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RM reported that Chair and Deputy Chairs' term of office is ending at the next AGM. JPS is standing down at the AGM and will not stand again, GT will stand again for Deputy Chair. HJ reported that the next QMC Chair will initially have read only access to the QMC Training Account.

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Agenda Item 10: Training Officer Report

BCA Training Proposal to council May 25th 2021

'Reverse the decision not to pay for professional training'

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The Background

Up until the council meeting at the end of 2020, clubs, regional councils and the BCA training committee were able to pay for professional instructors to run training events with the BCA supporting these. Different regions used this to varying extents with different costs based on prior arrangements and regional differences.

Towards the end of 2020 a vote was made at council to prevent any payment of instructors for BCA funded training events. The reason for the proposal was trying to minimise the encroachment of commercial requirements on recreational caving and to try and ensure transparency in where BCA members money was being spent as there was the feeling that BCA money could be being used to pay people where there were suitably competent volunteers. Another concern of members on council was maybe that the same few trainers may be getting paid. I would like to confirm that all the trainers for these workshops were working on a minimum fee, which only went up as the numbers of delegates went up. This was offered to a number of people and selection was made from those that offered to work this way enabling BCA events to never make a loss.

The training committee believe that council made this vote without being fully informed at the end of a long meeting with some confusing and drastic proposals. This proposal looks to set out the plan for BCA training committee in both the immediate short term and thereafter.

The Immediate Short Term

Coming out of the back end of this pandemic, there will be many who may have experienced skill fade over the last year of limited caving. This is a priority concern for regional training officers who are all talking to each other to run out many training opportunities with as varied content as possible, ranging from geology, weather & flooding, SRT, rigging and self rescue. All training will be run at regional level, with the role of BCA training officer continuing as before to be an 'enabler'. All training, be it rope work or other, will be delivered by suitably competent people. This does not necessarily mean the person with the highest qualification, however in some circumstances it may be appropriate for a trainer to be paid. It should be noted that the last year has reduced the pool of suitably competent cavers to run courses for expenses only, with many unable to justify doing work for free, as they have done previously.

Transparency and Conflict of Interest

This then links into the transparency of making the decisions as to where work needs to go. The regional training officers should be empowered with support by their regions and the BCA to be able to contact people to run relevant courses if required. BCA training committee will of course comply with the BCA conflict of interest policy to ensure that all training events are organised fairly.

Any training (except for that already arranged), that the regional officers intend to be run by a paid trainer, will be publicised for a reasonable period (to be discussed, agreed and dependant on the time of year/availability of venue etc) enable any potential trainers to bid. Anyone with or without qualifications will be able to apply to run these events for expenses or other agreed fees. All training officers agree that there needs to be full transparency as to how the decision is made to who they contract to run an event, however there is a balance with how complex the procedure

can be before it becomes detrimental to organising training. Regional officers would need to be able to justify why a volunteer only wishing to be reimbursed for expenses has been turned down in favour of someone charging a higher amount. The decision-making process and justification should include (but not be limited to) consideration of the applicant's expertise in the area, any provision of equipment or location, ability to guarantee their time weeks in advance, balanced against the

relevant costs. The regional training officers will continue to meet and discuss the training roll out in their areas in order to support each other, share resources, contacts and to support training as required to the training officers of clubs.

Proposal:

'Reverse the decision not to pay for professional training'

Final proposal

"BCA to confirm subject to justification of expenses as set out in the BCA Training Proposal to Council May 25th 2021 and provided that the training events have been publicised in order to maximise the pool of options, that Instructors can be paid a reasonable rate for their professional services. If insufficient justification is available, BCA can refuse to reimburse these amounts"

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Looking Forward

I as the BCA training officer have always worked hard to see clubs empowered to be able to run training with support from their regional training officers. Other groups in the training committee may also run events in the future like NAMHO, ACI, BCRA and with BCA's financial support these national events will be open to as many BCA members as possible.

There was some discussion on the proposal above.

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Proposer Training Committee

2nd JP

Against none

Abstentions 2

For 12

Motion carried

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The Training Officer finished his presentation to Council with a statement that he would be standing down from the post as of 5th June which marked the end of his three-year term of office plus one additional year in an acting capacity. He had made interim arrangements for a replacement convener in the run-up to the AGM. Council recorded a vote of gratitude for the work he had undertaken during his term of office.

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Agenda Item 11: Ash Die Back

The effect of Ash Die Back (ADB) is beginning to manifest itself on the national caving scene, refer to this link on the BCA Website for more details:

[Ash Dieback - British Caving Association \(british-caving.org.uk\)](http://british-caving.org.uk)

Following discussion with one Regional Council, it was felt that the matter would be better considered at a local level and referred to the Regions for more detailed consideration, plans and action.

In this respect, Council is advised to acknowledge the matter and individual representative members disseminate the issue back to their respective organisations for further consideration.

Russell Myers

Chair

BCA

May 2021

RM reported to the meeting that there is a need to make cavers more aware of the problem, this needs flagging up to the regions.

Agenda Item 12: CRoW

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CROW Access Group:

Following my report to the last meeting the case continues. The Welsh Government has been extremely reluctant to provide further disclosure of documents setting out the basis of its policy, and we have complained about this to the High Court. In our view, they have to give us the detailed record of the policy discussion that has taken place regarding CROW and cavers, not just in Wales but also England, and this was implicit in the order made by Lord Justice Edis in the Court of Appeal.

Meanwhile we have submitted our Amended Statement of Facts and Reasons, pursuant to the Court of Appeal granting us permission for a full hearing.

The other side will have to submit a paper response to this, and then, finally, we believe, make that disclosure of the detailed basis on which it thinks cavers should be excluded from even discussing access reform. We will further amend our statement when we see what they have to say. The hearing is probably still some months away. I will let members know of further developments as they occur.

David Rose

CROW Access Working Group Convenor

DR reported to the meeting that a court date had been confirmed for the 21/22 July 2021 in Cardiff High Court. There is still some reluctance on the part of the Welsh Government to release all the documents, but it is hoped with the publication of the dates things will start to be resolved..

Whether this would be in open court or by remote was not yet known.

RM asked whether members of the exec would be needed to take part, the answer at present was possibly yes. The email addresses of the Exec and those who have been involved with the case have been submitted, anyone is entitled to attend either in person or by remote access. Anyone who wishes to attend needs to send an email to DR.

DR reported that there had been no nasty surprises in the evidence submitted so far by the Welsh Government.

Agenda Item 13: Newsletter

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You will have noticed it's been more than a year since the last newsletter – thanks, of course, to the pandemic. Meanwhile, the website has undergone a massive revamp. I'd like to start a discussion as to whether now might be the time to drop the newsletter altogether – and instead, put more effort into posting news as it happens on the website, as well as, perhaps, some more general feature material, such as details of classic trips and expeditions.

It's been a source of great frustration to me that most members don't get the newsletter by email as a matter of course, and that the GDPR issues responsible for this appear to be no closer to being resolved. I understand that still only about 10 per cent have signed up to receive the newsletter, and in my view, this makes it hard to justify the effort of producing it.

I hope we can find to discuss all this at the next meeting, and if need be, at the AGM.

David Rose
Newsletter editor

DR spoke to his report, he would be happy to help with the development of the website. He also asked do we actually want a Newsletter any longer.

JP said that Newsletters were important as they could act as a prompt for people to visit the website. She found it hard to believe that GDPR was stopping us sending Newsletters to our members.

JS said that Newsletters were often out of date, he got his prompts for caving information using modern media eg Twitter.

RN thought it was useful to produce an occasional Newsletter which could summarise the latest information. He also felt that it would be possible to send out a Newsletter at the start of next year. There was also a problem with the longevity of digital information.

RN said that P&I would sort something out re a newsletter.

Agenda Item 14: Any Other Business

a) Due to the resignation of Phil Rowsell, the GPF was short of a Trustee, HJJ has been appointed by GPF, this needs the approval of BCA Council. HJJ was approved as a GPF Trustee, all in favour.

b) The decision to accept Cavefest as a club member of BCA was noted.

Agenda Item 15: Date of next Council meeting

Note the date has changed, it is now:-

Thursday ~~uesday~~ 15th July 2021 at 7.15pm

Followed by a Council Meeting on Tuesday 27th July designated as the last before the AGM in compliance with Manual of Operation.

Note all nominations for posts and proposals for the AGM should have been submitted by midnight on Monday 26th July.

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Appendices

Reports:

1. Cavefest Funding Vote

Report from the Chair regarding Cavefest request for funding – Voting Results

Results of the email vote:

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Yes - 0

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No -20

Abstained 2

Not returned - 5

A very clear result not to fund the Cavefest event.

The vote by individual Council Member is recorded below including substantial comments from Members where they have contributed more than a simple Yes/No/Abstain to the vote. I feel these add substance to the vote and worth recording to give an indication of the content of any debate which may ordinarily have taken place in different circumstances.

Russell Myers

Chair

BCA

May 2021

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Council Positions and Voting Record - Cavefest Funding Request April 2021										
Voting Item/proposal	Cavefest	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
BCA Executive										
Chairman (Co-opted) (2018-2021) 3 years	Russell Myers	Casting vote only								
Secretary (Co-opted) (2019-2022) 3 years	Allan Richardson	Abstained								
Treasurer (2020- 2023 - 3 years)	Howard Jones	No								
Group/Club Representatives										
Position 1 - (2019-2021 - 2 years)	Hellie Adams	Abstained								
Position 2 - (2019-2021 - 2 years)	Josh White	No								
Position 3 - (2020 - 2022 years)	Lydia Leather	No								
Position 4 - (2020 - 2022 years)	Idris Williams	No								
Individual Member Representatives										
Position 1 - (2020-2022 - 2 years)	Jenny Potts	No								
Position 2 - (2020-2022 - 2 years)	Andrew McCleod	No								
Position 3 - (2020-2021 - 1 year remaining)	Pete Knights	No								
Position 4 - (2020-2021 - 1 year remaining)	Martin Hoff	No								
Chairs of Standing Committees										
Training Officer (2018-2021 - 3 years)	Nigel Atkins	No								
Equipment and Techniques Officer (2017-2020 -3 years) Co-opted un-	Mark Sims	Vote not returned								

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Comments

1. Cambrian Caving Council executive members have all considered the matter of BCA and/or

Most of our objections to funding were covered by the points that other BCA council members have made already. Further comments that I received were:

- Cavefest should set its sights lower in the present national emergency climate
- It should abandon the idea of being a free event and instead aim to cover its costs from participants
- The Cavefest ethos needs to change to being self-funding first and being a charitable donor second
- An organised bar, organised evening entertainment and merchandise for sale, are not necessary components for an event primarily focused on providing underground visits
- People who are new to caving or want to find new friends should best get in touch with a caving club
- Cavefest is social media orientated and this will not reach across the caving 'community'
- The non-caving charity donation focus might look like 'virtue signalling' and in any case charity is best be kept out of event accounts and simply left to donation boxes and personal choices
- Cavefest clearly has a cash-flow problem to prepare events. BCA could consider making loans to remove such pre-event cash flow problems. These might be tied to the regional council and local caving clubs being involved in the event planning and execution. NAMHO makes loans to assist whichever member association hosts its annual conference and its scheme works quite well.
- As Cavefest does seem to be operating more as a club than any other kind of entity, it could admitted to BCA as a member club so that it could access the BCA insurance scheme, particularly in respect of new recruits. Would BCA be happy for them to rotate their regional allegiance according to the location of each annual event? Is it legally watertight to use the insurance scheme if Cavefest could be posited as commercial? Otherwise where is insurance coming from as it is invisible in the budget forecast included with its subsidy proposal?

2. I have discussed this request for BCA funding with the CNCC officers. The consensus is that funding under the present terms should not be made available.

We appreciate that cavefest are enthusiastic individuals who want to keep a simplistic approach. Unfortunately if they want external funding they have to undergo due diligence.

We would consider a loan to help with cash flow if essential.

However, if BCA is to fund this it must get the BCA P&I all over it to maximise its reach to cavers. Ie call it BCA cavefest.

Andy Eavis had established the BCA party weekend several years ago which was reasonably successful and a similar scale rotating around the regions with the AGM. This BCA volunteer event is very similar to cavefest. I doubt Cavefest can be harnessed into a June date each year.

So basically it is a no from CNCC.

Regards

Andrew Hinde CNCC chairman

3. I vote 'No' at this time.

The request is too large to agree via this mechanism (even if agreed at the last BCA Council meeting). We appear to be talking about BCA expenditure exceeding income with consequences for 2022 fees.

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I could only consider agreeing within a meeting with the pro's and con's being considered in discussion.

While responding to this, I can also express the view that we again seemed to be in danger of trying to squeeze to much into the last BCA Council Meeting – individuals can only keep involvement with a Zoom meeting if reasonably short. Have more meetings if needed.

Steve Holding
NAMHO Rep

4. BCRA vote "No" to funding. I have consulted the Trustees and there is strong opposition to any funding for Cavefest. Reasons cited (taken directly from emails sent to me) include:

if this were to be supported in effect every BCA member would be paying around £2 so that a small number of folk can attend for free.

one reason BCA should not support this event is that it is not clear who CaveFest actually are. There seems to be no accountability information on their web site. No address for serving documents, no list of people who are "responsible" for the event; no way of knowing how the finances are managed. We probably all "know" the answers to these questions, to some extent, but the info should be publicly available. Someone could easily think, from looking at the web site, that it is a BCA event.

I don't think BCA should support this. If they were going to support something I think funds would be better targeted towards BCA/BCRAs own events once the time becomes appropriate again

IMHO this event should be organised so that it does not make a loss and any profits can then be donated towards whatever causes the organisers decide. If BCA funds this and it makes a profit we are, in effect, being asked to donate BCA funding to some cause we might not otherwise consider.

I see no reason why funds derived from the BCA membership at large should be siphoned off in support of a local jolly... whether the local jolly be in South Wales, the Dales, or any other caving region.

I'm not even sure I approve of the underlying logic and motivation. If people want to start or get back to caving they will, just as they always have. Laying on free festivals doesn't seem like a sound footing for attracting the right sort of people in the hope that afterwards they will miraculously become self-supporting.

5. It's a firm 'no' from me. I think Howard's reasoning sums it up perfectly. Thanks, Josh Group representative

6. As DCA rep, I totally agree with Howard, this is not a good way to spend BCA Money and I say No to BCA providing this funding to Cavefest.

7. I am a NO for this funding request. I do not think this represents good value for members and have deep concerns with the previous funding conditions if nothing was returned to BCA even though the event made a profit.

Pete Knight Individual Member Rep.

8. My vote is NO for the following reasons:

- I echo the reasons/comments given by Howard
- For many years I was on a university grant giving body and we had a policy against repeat requests from the same organisations for the same even. I firmly believe that to be a sensible policy as there should be a future plan for events to be self-sustaining, which clearly Cave Fest can be as it has made profits in the past which have been distributed. However, if it had a policy of banking those profits as a float for future years then no subsidies would be needed.
- Attendees should bear their own costs. If Cave Fest wishes to subsidise this then it can do so from its own profits.
- If the above is not done then BCA is indirectly donating to charities. That is not a good use of members finances and is not the reason BCA exists.
- There is no possible justification for subsidising an event that has made a reasonably substantial surplus in previous years.
- Event funding should only ever be of the 'pump priming' variety where money is needed for bookings/outlay where no funds exist to start off with. This is demonstrably not the case and Cave Fest should be able to stand on its own feet by now.

CSCC Representative Linda Wilson

1.9. I would vote **NO** to this request.

My reasons would the same as those set out by the BCA Treasurer in his comments attached to the request.

Jenny Potts
Individual Member rep.

2.10. I'll vote NO for this request. There was a short fall in funding Radon detectors this round of some £200 and no money for mileage. The radon survey benefits all cavers yet was not fully funded because of a drop in the BCA's income. ACI have funded the short fall and will reimburse members for costs placing this last round of detectors. It rather grates that this small amount of money could not be spent on something that benefits all cavers, yet such a relatively large sum be spent on a party.

Stephan, ACI rep and Chair.

3.11. I find it difficult to vote to spend a significant sum of BCA money on something where a limited

proportion of BCA membership has the opportunity to be involved and where the benefit to the BCA in return seems only to be on the indirect basis that some people go caving. I note the intention of cavefest to gain club status within BCA, which invites a comparative question, of whether, for example clubs like the Craven and the Bradford might also be BCA funded for events such as GG Winch meets. I may be wrong but I take the £15 charge for using the winch to suggest that such events are expected\intended to pay for themselves and not provided for free to visitors. I am uncertain whether there is demand for this free event and about its reliable viability in the current changing times.

I vote no.

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Martin Hoff Individual Representative

4.12. I will be voting no (I do not support giving Cavefest the funding they have asked for).

Although I would still have voted no, I would like to thank Howard for giving me a comprehensive set of objective reasons to do so!

I guess technically this vote should be published somewhere (with who voted for what) in the next set of minutes or something (since we are now recording who votes for what in Council meetings for transparency).

Andrew McLeod Individual Representative

5.13. I haven't a vote, but I don't really see why BCA should be funding a completely free social, even

including some bar stock!

In my experience if you offer something completely free, people sign up and then can't be relied on to turn up.

I would suggest that

- a) we concentrate funds on actual caving rather than socials
- b) if we are helping to fund socials, this should be a max of half the costs, so that attendees still have to show some financial commitment to turning up.

Related to this is the question of cancellation. A festival canceled just last week due to the lack of insurance cover. What happens to our money if they are forced to cancel.

I'd prefer to see funding for free youth caving rather than a free piss-up.

Chris Boardman Safe Guarding Officer

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