

Minutes of the Council Meeting Tuesday 5th September 2023

The meeting was held via Zoom starting at 7.30 pm

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Next Meeting Important Agenda Items

BCA Council Diary 2023/2024

Council Positions

Voting Position	Name	Initials
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BCA Executive		
Chair 21-24 (3 years)	Russell Myers	RM
Secretary 21-24 (3 years)	Allan Richardson	AR
Treasurer		
Group/Club Reps		
Position 1, 22-24 (2 years)	Jenny Potts	JP
Position 2		JW
Individual Member Reps		
Position 1, 22-24 (2 years)	Andy Eavis	AE
Position 2		
Regional Council Reps		
CCC	Allan Richardson	AR
CNCC	Andrew Hinde	AH
CSCC	Linda Wilson	LW
DCA	Mike Higgins	MH
DCUC	David Jean	DJ
Constituent Body Reps		
William Pengelly CST	Richard Vooght	RV
Assoc. Cave Instructors	Stephan Natynczuk	SN
National Caving Scout Active Support Unit	Tony Radmall	TR
BCRA	John Gunn	JG
NAMHO	Steve Holding	SH
CHECC	Jennifer Ryder	JR
CDG	Claire Cohen	CC
BCRC	Emma Porter	EP

Non Voting Positions	Name	Initials
Working Group Convenors		
Training and Equipment	Steve Gray	SG
Conservation and Access	Richard Vooght	RV
Information Technology	Ari Cooper-Davis	ACD
Youth and Development	Jonathan Lester	JL
QMC	George Plant	GP
CoG	Andrew McLeod	AM
Radon	Vacant	
P & I	Vacant	
Additional BCA Appointments		
Insurance Manager	Josh White	JW
Membership Administrator	Katie Eavis	KE
Safeguarding Officer	Chris Boardman	CB
Training Administrator	Mary Wilde	MW

Library Representative	Jenny Potts	JP
Newsletter Editor	Vacant	
UIS Representative	Ged Campion	GC
FSE Representative		
Artificial Cave	Katie Eavis	KE
QMC Representative 1 (observer)	BCA Chair	RM
QMC Representative 2 (observer)	Chris Boardman	CB
Book Keeper	Karen Lydon	KL

Present

Russell Myers, Steve Holding, Tony Radmall, Jenny Potts, Linda Wilson, Chris Boardman, Richard Vooght, David Jean, Stephan Natynczuk, Mike Higgins

Agenda item 1: Apologies for absence

Allan Richardson, Ari Cooper-Davis, Josh White, John Gunn, Andy Eavis

Agenda item 2: Acceptance of the 27th June 2023 Meeting Minutes

Proposer Jenny Potts

Second Linda Wilson

All in favour, passed nem con

Agenda item 3: Important Agenda items

Agenda item 4: Matters arising/Action Plan

Agenda item 5: Vacancies

Treasurer

A Convener is still sought for the P&I working group

One individual representative

One group representative

FSE Representative

The Radon group remains dormant.

Agenda item 6: Chair's Report

Chair's Report to Council Meeting 5th September 2023

Hidden Earth has now been confirmed for the weekend of 15/16/17th September and in case this is news to anyone here is the link to the event Hidden Earth - The UK's National Caving Conference. I am planning to be there and have organised a stand to promote BCA alongside BCRA. We still have significant vacancies within BCA and the Conference will be an opportunity to recruit to those positions, the critical one being a Treasurer.

On the subject of vacancies, I highlighted the issue in the run-up to this year's AGM when we emailed the membership about the situation and warned that if no volunteers came forward, we should look to employ help in certain areas. Two of those are the Publications and Information Officer position and the IT Convenor's position. Ari has given us a final final notice that he really will step down by January 2024.

Background

We have not been able to fill the Publications and Information Officer's position, despite trying to recruit a volunteer.

Latterly, we have been fortunate to have some voluntary help producing a limited amount of publicity material, which has been gratefully accepted but is clearly insufficient to meet the demands of the full position. However, the publicity element is, in my opinion, a crucial aspect for the post and we have had an offer to boost this on a paid basis.

Our current volunteer has offered to put more time into BCA publicity but this would mean giving up some of their current paid work to do this. The Secretary and I have discussed this and feel that in the current circumstances with a lack of volunteers, this would be a positive way to solving the shortfall in BCA publicity output. The full Publications and Information Officer position remains open for volunteer applications.

Budget

The offer is to provide 5 to 7 hours per week on average which at current BCA rates of pay amounts to £3000 per year including employer's national insurance contribution. This has not been budgeted for this year hence the need for Council agreement. BCA reserves indicate we can afford this.

Outcomes

- Keep news section of BCA website updated with items of interest from the Working Groups
- As above with news from BCA's constituent members
- To publicise BCA's work on its website and to its members
- Press releases of anything of suitable local/national interest to raise the profile of caving in a positive way
- To encourage participation in caving in an inclusive manner and foster a culture of respect with a zero-tolerance attitude to discrimination including on grounds of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, creed, colour, occupation, religion or political opinion
- To actively seek out and generate such content

I am open to suggestions from anyone who has anything further to offer regarding outcomes.

From the BCA Chair, Russell Myers: I propose that a paid publicity position is established, managed by and reporting through the Executive Committee whilst the P&I Officer position is vacant, to the National Council.

Second BCA Secretary, Allan Richardson

At the meeting the vote was:-

All in favour, passed nem con.

Regarding the IT position, we are heading into a similar situation and whilst the Executive Committee have not worked out any detail yet it would be useful for Council to give approval in principle to a paid appointment to manage the IT function.

Proposal from the BCA Chair, Russel Myers: I propose that a paid position to manage the IT function be approved in principle by Council and the Executive Committee be authorised to pursue this objective.

Second BCA Secretary Allan Richardson

At the meeting, the vote was:-

All in favour, no abstentions passed nem con.

Finally, Council members may be interested to know that samples of the Horner Collection which we recently contributed funding towards the digitisation of the images in the Collection are on display in the Folly Settle North Yorkshire. Only one caving scene is on display but looks quite impressive reproduced at A1 size and shows an unusual view of the Bridge in Alum Pot. Additionally, a series of high quality caving photos promoted by CNCC are also on display in the Folly up the central staircase. I can highly recommend visiting to view the photographs.

Russell Myers

Chair

At the meeting Russell Myers reported that the setting up of the Communications Working Group was slowly progressing. Linda Wilson reported that she has access to the website and can create, edit and delete material. This removes some of the load from Ari Cooper Davis and Josh White. CRoW, to date there is no volunteer to head the Working Group.

Russell is creating a large poster to display at Hidden Earth to advertise BCA and the vacancies.

Agenda item 7: BCA Secretaries Report

Nothing to report.

Agenda item 8: BCA Treasurer Report

No Report

Book keeping Report

BCA Book Keeper Report to BCA Council September 2023

Current bank balances: as at 25/08/2023 was £216,000. Of which £88,000 is in medium term interest bearing accounts and £77,000 is in short term deposit accounts and £41,000 on overnight deposit.

Unusual spend since last Council:

£3k to BCRA second quarter charitable donation

£750 to North Craven Building Preservation Trust donation as approved by BCA Council

Known upcoming spend in September 2023

£3k to BCRA third quarter charitable donation

Birmingham Student (BCSCC) kit loan (part of Y&D Budget 2023) £1,746

BCA Financial year end

The BCA accounts for the year ending 31/12/2022 were approved at the March 2023 BCA Council meeting, and are to be noted at this AGM. I subsequently thanked the independent reviewer and submitted the BCA tax return to HMRC. No tax was payable as I utilised losses brought forward plus charitable donations in the year

PayPal

A new BCA PayPal account was set up as the old one was no longer viable. This was not easily achieved! Hidden Earth 2023 are using it for the event and the income for HE will be paid across to BCRA before 31/12/2023.

BCA Book Keeper

BCA Council have approved the creation of a staff role BCA Book keeper. This is the first report.

The role is not attractive in itself as the hours are low except at year end however Karen Lydon an existing BCA staff member has added the role to her existing duties

HJJ has been mentoring Karen Lydon (KL) with a view to KL flying solo in 2024 after the year end process has been completed.

To date the following has been achieved

KL is now a HSBC bank signatory to the BCA 3 accounts

KL has transferred monies between accounts

KL has set up new payees

KL has paid new and existing payees

KL has monitored bank balances and transferred into current account to ensure payments are not bounced

Kl has begun the bank reconciliation process

Howard Jones and Karen Lydon BCA Book keepers 25/08/2023

UIS Fees

BCA are affiliated to two organisations those being UIS and FES. FES invoice us annually. UIS haven't invoiced us in the five years I have been Treasurer. Andy Eavis advised me they have woken up to this fact and raised an invoice for around Euros 2,000 to cover the last five years. As it's in Euros Andy will pay it and then claim it back on expenses which will be in sterling. Please process the expenses claim when it arrives. Russell this needs noting at BCA Council due to the size of the invoice. It's not controversial other than UIS should not allow such a situation to happen, in my business life I would refuse to back date such a claim as it means the previous years accounts have been wrong, though not materially so.

Regards

HJJ

Agenda item 9: Insurance Report

I was recently contacted by our insurance broker, Howden who advised of a recently settled claim under the public liability for a client of theirs not dissimilar to ours. This claim was for an incident that occurred several years ago but has just been settled.

The total claim amount was for circa £12m. This is obviously in excess of what our current cover is under the policy, and was higher than the liability cover in place for this client at the time of incident.

The incident resulted in lifetime disability for a young person with huge potential lifetime earnings (medical student), so the original numbers being banded around during the settlement were in the region of £20m.

The rising cost of providing lifetime care due to inflation contributed to this and the specific circumstances of the individual. Because of this quick increase in costs over the last few years the insurance policy had not increased its limits, and any claim when it is settled would be based upon the cover in place at the time of incident.

We are therefore as a matter of urgency looking to obtain quotes to increase our maximum cover levels past £10m, up to £15m and to £20m if available. When Howden have provided these quotes, I will approach the executive with a recommendation. Cost dependent, the executive may feel it is a decision they want to put forwards to council, however I would not want this to slow the process.

I will not be at the council meeting, and in light of this just being an update and not an open ended discussion piece, I see no need for discussion, which will only raise speculation, either regarding the potential cost increases of insurance or on the incident mentioned above.

I will update council in due course.

Josh White

BCA Insurance Manager

Insurance@british-caving.org.uk

Agenda item 10: Membership

2023 Club Membership

2020 vs 2021 vs 2022 vs 2023 Membership levels

	2020 (up until the 31st December)	2021 (up until the 31st December)	2022 (up until the 31th December)	2023 (up until the 4th September)
Groups (including Member Clubs, Associates and Access Controlling Bodies)	166	162	169	167
CIMs (including Cavers, Non-Cavers, Students, Under 18s and CDG)	5308	5049	5629	5631

All club cards are posted within 2 weeks of the update being received. Clubs are generally paying up prompting, with just a few needing chasing to pay.

2024 Renewal time

It is nearly time to start preparing for the 2024 BCA membership renewals. This raises a few issues I would like BCA council to consider.

- Membership fees for 2024. Will these stay the same as 2023? Some clubs run their own membership year offset to the BCA calendar year and therefore need to know the next year's BCA fees in October.
- Plastic cards – have we confirmation we are definitely stopping plastic cards? David Gibson has been putting some work into the format the new e-cards can take. I would like to advise clubs about the change in cards ASAP so it isn't a big surprise in January. We can also advise DIMs via the renewal email and social media/ ukcaving etc.

For 2024 I am assuming I will still send a plastic card to anyone who specifically requests one – but only whilst current card stocks last.

- When I took over from Wendy in 2021 I inherited her club renewal forms. It has since become clear the BCA collects information on our membership that we don't use. I would like to modify the paperwork so we are only collecting what we use (to conform with GDPR Regs) unless there is a plan to start using this data? For example we ask for gender and year of birth – although we make clear that it isn't compulsory to include either. I understand gender and year of birth can be useful to track our membership demographics however we haven't used this data in the 2 and half years I have been looking after membership. I suggest we either remove both from the forms, or we start using this data yearly. Perhaps I could produce some statistics on membership age/ gender every summer when renewals are mostly in and membership work is quiet and report back to the council on membership splits and trends?
- The club membership forms also ask clubs which regional councils they would like to affiliate to and provides a tick list. However only one regional council (of the five on the form) uses the list of affiliated clubs that BCA collects. I have previously contacted the other 4 regional councils to provide their list of affiliated clubs and they have all told me that they administrate their own membership and do not need the BCA list. This causes a couple of problems. Firstly we are collecting data from members we are not using. And more importantly it is confusing for our member clubs. They assume if they tick the box on the BCA form that says 'affiliate to regional council A' that that council will contact them and make them a member, however this isn't the case for 4 out of 5 councils who don't use the BCA list at all. I suggest we remove the 'affiliate to a regional council' bit from all club forms. I will then contact the one regional council who do use our list and explain. They will of course be able to check any club joining their council is a BCA member by just asking me.

We can't have a form that allows affiliation to only one regional council and it will be easier to suggest this council manages their own membership than ask the other 4 to change their system to make use of the information the BCA collects.

Any questions or queries about anything raised in this membership report please feel free to contact me.

DIM Membership report for BCA Council

Figures

Basic DIM	656
Joint members	122
Students	69
Under-18	45
non-Caving	67
Bulk DIMs (BIMs)	48

Total DIM members	1007
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Notes

- Taken by themselves, those figures are not particularly ‘instructive’ because they do not show how many DIMs have migrated from being CIMs. I suspect that at least some of the gradual increase in DIM numbers is due to CIMs deciding to renew as DIMs.
- BCA does not have an ‘official’ joint membership category, but it is offered as a convenience for payment, where two members live at the same address. BCRA *does* have a joint membership category, so operating with one is obviously a convenience for BCRA.
- Bulk DIMs (a.k.a. BIMs) is an additional ‘unofficial’ membership category that we have had to create as a convenience. We occasionally get groups of people that want to join ‘in bulk’ rather than as individuals. However, they are not truly CIMs because they are not associated with a BCA club. An example might be a group of university students that need insurance for a particular trip. They are not in a position to sign up individually as DIMs – their trip is being paid for by their supervisor, who (in the most recent case) completed 21 separate DIM applications, all quoting his own university address. Not only is this an inconvenience for him; it does not fit in with our DIM procedures and so it requires “manual intervention” in various processes. The other 27 of the current so-called BIMs are a group of cave guides in Vietnam, who wanted BCRA membership. As you can see, there are a number of issues here, and at some point, it might be useful to consider ...

i) Is it procedurally acceptable for us to issue DIM memberships to people without their giving us a personal address? If that is not acceptable then we need a different method of issuing these memberships so...

ii) Is it procedurally acceptable for CIM memberships to be created where the group is not a group member of BCA? If that is not acceptable then we need advice on how to proceed.

iii) Regarding the Vietnamese cave guides – since they do not require insurance, the handling of their membership would be simpler if they could join BCRA directly, without joining BCA at all. If BCRA were to create a Group membership category that did not include membership of BCA would this be acceptable – I think I mean “acceptable to the insurers”?

- Of the above figures, a further breakdown shows
- There are 7 members who either have no email address or who have instructed us not to use it for contacting them
- There are 7 members who are honorary life members of BCRA and therefore, by agreement, receive free BCA membership. However, BCRA does not have any contact details for 3 of those honorary life members so, in practice, it is as if they had resigned from BCRA/BCA.
- There are 13 members who have not paid a BCA fee via the DIM form M1; stating that they were upgrading from CIM and have paid a BCA fee to their club.
- *Explanatory note for Katie Eavis:* In the above figures I have taken the Irish students out of the “basic DIM” category and listed them as BIMs. However, they *do* appear on the current DIM spreadsheet – unlike the Vietnamese members who are tacked onto the end of the Groups spreadsheet.
- David Gibson

At the meeting there was some discussion re raising BCA subscriptions, there was a lack of enthusiasm for it this time round, but to be re-visited next spring.

Proposal that the subscription fees to be the same for 2024 as they are now, but will be looking at the issue in detail in Spring.

Proposer Russell Myers

Second Linda Wilson

All in favour, passed nem con.

Russell to look at the rest of Katie's report to see if it will need an email vote, this does not include JustGo which is separate.

BCA Just Go

Background:

BCA membership currently consists of around 1000 individual members and over 5600 club members. Club membership is all administrated via a number of spreadsheets. Individual members are tracked via David Gibson's web based system (which is easily transferrable to a spreadsheet). All changes to membership details, for example address or name changes, are done manually via myself or David.

For a couple of years the BCA training side (LCMLA/ CICs) have been on a professional membership platform called 'Just Go'. Via this system members can log on and change their own details, pay membership fees, book on to events etc. The training administrator highly rates Just Go, and even credits Just Go with delaying her retirement by removing the more onerous aspects of the job. She does deal with the odd member who struggles with the new system but the vast majority find it easy and effective to use.

Just Go now has over 2 and half million members and includes groups such as British Canoeing, Swim Ireland, Surf Australia etc.

<https://justgo.com/>

Just Go for BCA Membership:

I have been looking into the possibility of moving BCA membership on to the Just Go platform to join BCA training. This would enable cavers to update their memberships in one place, set up annual direct debits for payment if they wanted and be more in control of their BCA memberships. I know in the past some DIMs have been keen to be able to pay by annual direct debit which this system would provide. As well as dealing with individuals the Just Go system is designed to deal with club membership so we would be able to set up profiles for all our member clubs to track and manage their membership. One of our members, the Speleological Union of Ireland, already uses Just Go. The Just Go system also provides a platform for booking on to events, and a digital wallet which can contain e-cards for membership. It contains an email system which allows bulk emails to be sent to your membership, and creates categories for email – for example you can easily email all male members under 30 if you want! My current email system only allows me to email 100 people per hour, which means it takes me 2 hours to email all 170 club representatives, and email the 5600 club members is not really possible.

There is support available via the system if there are problems or queries. This support plus the email facility should help to take some pressure off BCA volunteers, who currently provide IT support and email the whole membership when needed.

Just Go should make the administration of BCA membership easier and more time efficient and also modernise the system so member have more control over their membership.

Obviously this system comes with costs. I have spoken to Phil, the commercial director at Just Go, and got some idea of the systems capabilities as well as the costs involves.

- A one-off implementation fee of £1,500 plus VAT
 - A quarterly payment of £1,740. This represents an increase in payment of £1075.38 per quarter, when the amount already paid for the training scheme is removed.
 - Transaction fees of 2.9% plus 20p per transaction for payments by UK credit or debit cards.
- Please can BCA council consider whether we want to move all BCA membership to Just Go, to join the BCA training scheme? The current way BCA membership is managed does work. We can find all the details we need and can effectively track our membership. But it is quite labour intensive, both for me as a paid membership administrator and for David Gibson who spends a huge amount of volunteer time on membership. It does involve extra costs – as seen above. However it should

improve the service BCA gives its membership, and also future proof BCA membership should the membership administrator change again, especially as happened last time, in a sudden way with no handover!

Phil, from Just Go, has said he is happy to attend a BCA committee meeting remotely if you wanted to talk through the system and its capabilities.

Katie Eavis

At the meeting there was a general discussion on JustGo, QMC were already using it successfully.

BCRA were also interested in joining the scheme.

The Council were generally in favour of the scheme.

Russell proposed that we continue to pursue the JustGo membership system in principle, with a view to reporting back to Council at a future date for a final decision to be made.

Proposer Russell Myers

Second Jenny Potts

All in favour, passed nem con.

Agenda item 11: Other Reports

IT

Nothing to report

Library Report

Work continues at the Library itself with volunteer Library Co-ordinator (myself), the Librarian (Mary Wilde) plus 2 Library Assistants (Karen Lydon and Katie Eavis) also working some days.

Note that all 3 paid library workers are also doing other part time work for BCA.

Work on cataloguing surveys and maps is moving forward at speed now with 2 more volunteers dealing with archive surveys. Other volunteers maintain the Online Bibliography/Catalogue (Martin Laverty), the BCRA Online Archives (John Gardner) as well as keeping a general overview of IT issues (Chris Hunter).

It is immensely disappointing that we have still not been able to crack the problem of having the Simpson/BSA archive material, which had been placed on permanent loan to BGS in 2010, available to cavers generally. (The BGS website allows viewing but not downloading of the material for research purposes.) This is despite the material also being scanned by a volunteer so that it could be put on a BCRA website. BCRA officers are attempting to get the original Memorandum of Understanding, agreed between BGS and BCRA in 2010, re-written to allow better access for cavers.

As our cataloguing proceeds we are sorting out a large number of duplicate copies of publications, including surveys, which are surplus to requirements. **The Library will be having a stand at Hidden Earth this year and are hoping that our traditional “Lucky Dip” boxes will enable this material to be passed on to other cavers and clubs in return for donations to the Library funds.**

Jenny Potts, 23-8-23

At the meeting Jenny Potts pointed out that our current system was not easy to work with and depended on David Gibson who is retiring soon.

UIS Report

Recently I travelled to Curitiba in Brazil to attend the International Union of Speleology Bureau meeting in my capacity as Honorary President and representing BCA as unfortunately Ged Campion was not able to attend. The bureau meeting was in conjunction with the annual Brazilian Speleological Society convention, their equivalent of Hidden Earth!!

There were however quite a lot of differences between Hidden Earth and a Brazilian Congress, for example. I was somewhat surprised when during the opening ceremony everybody stood up for the Brazilian national anthem, I can't really see that happening at Hidden Earth.

There were some excellent papers, predominantly scientific particularly in regard to cave biology of which they have a lot of people doing a lot of research on cave biology in Brazil. Interestingly, the

whole of Brazilian speleology, and there's a lot of caves and a lot going on, is funded by mining companies. It did feel a little bit as though you agree with us destroying your cave in return for a lot of money.

The main reason however for the UIS being in Brazil was the Brazilian speleology society are hosting the next international congress in Belo Horizonte in July 2025.

After three days at the Curitiba conference, we travelled on to Belo Horizonte to view the congress centre and the facilities to be used in 2025. Everything was excellent, and of course things will be reasonable prices, bearing in mind the finance behind Brazilian speleology. Once delegates for the 2025 ICS have arrived at Belo Horizonte it will be the cheapest, most lavish international congress ever.

During the time in Curitiba, we visited two sandstone caves which was quite interesting and at Belo Horizonte we visited several archaeological caves which again was interesting.

There are a lot of caves in Brazil!! But obviously a lot haven't yet been discovered. In conjunction with the congress in 2025 there will be a host of excellent excursions to many of the caving areas around Brazil, some will be very popular to I will keep people posted of when they are released as they will sell out quickly.

We are exploring ways of travelling from Europe to Brazil cheaply. The Brazilians are looking at a deal with an airline to try and get significant discounts or even a charter. Currently the main cheapest route is from Lisbon to Brazil using TAP the Portuguese national airline.

At the end of the formal meetings, most of the group continued to the Peruacu Valley to look at the wonderful caves there. As I had already done that some years ago, I decided to miss that and come straight home. It is however one of the most spectacular caving regions anywhere in the world with a cave similar to Hang Soong Don in Vietnam, not quite as big but possibly even more beautiful and at least as long. Again, another opportunity for people who come to the congress in 2025.

Finally, there is considerable pressure from international speleologists for the UK to look at hosting the 2029 international congress, certainly the last time we hosted it in 1977 in Sheffield it was a wonderful affair, all who attended will never forget the closing party in Sheffield town hall, I'm not sure the town hall has ever recovered. 2025 will be the 20th International Congress of Speleology, England having hosted the 7th. All food for thought.

I must give my apologies for the meeting on 5th September, it is my sisters 80th birthday so we will be having a rip-roaring party, and trying to incorporate a BCA meeting on zoom would not be appropriate.

Andy Eavis

FSE Report

Brief update on FSE matters.

The BCA's FSE vice delegate David Botcherby has decided to step down from the role. In view of my new responsibilities as BCA vice delegate to the UIS, I propose dropping down to FSE vice delegate if council agrees. A new delegate will be found soon hopefully.

The FSE has set up a working group (ECYP) to encourage children and young people to take an interest in caving and cave and karst protection issues. A survey has been sent to all member countries with a closing date of 31st October. BCA will complete and return the survey.

The next General Assembly Meeting for the FSE is likely to take place in Italy in October 2024.

Ged Campion

BCA Vice Delegate to the FSE

Agenda Item 12: Any Other Business

• Conservation and Access Cap increase

- I would like to propose that the annual limit of £750 per year for C&A non project spend by RCC's be increased to £3000. This refers to Finance committee procedures attached below. Particularly Heading 7, no8, line c.

- Costs are paid according to the accounts, except for C&A.
- C&A expenditure up to annual total of £750 per year is paid according to the accounts.
- This removes the bureaucracy for day to day C&A work.
- C&A expenditure on a single project above £750 should be presented as projects to the C&A working Group for approval. Until approval is gained these project costs will not be paid by BCA in the regions' annual claim.
- The figure of £750 is to be reviewed annually.

The CNCC has already exceeded this £750 current value due to the number of conservation tasks undertaken with small capital value but generally around £300 in volunteer travel expenses per job. These are tasks undertaken by small club groups or qualified arborists responding to an urgent situation such as damaged trees or repairing fencing.

Andrew Hinde

CNCC Representative

At the meeting there was a discussion on the fact that "things happen" that require urgent work, also on the amount that was being suggested.

People were unhappy if the amount went up to £3000, £1500 was a more acceptable figure, but that people could ask for more as required.

The projects appearing depending on the area, eg capping a mineshaft in Derbyshire, this was a requirement and could be expensive.

Proposal that the annual limit for C & A non project spend was raised to £1500

Proposer David Jean

Second Linda Wilson

One Abstention, Richard Vooght

Rest in favour, passed.

Agenda Item 13: Date of next Council meeting

Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 7pm