



DRAFT Minutes for Council Meeting

Tuesday the 19th of May 2026 at 7pm

Held via Zoom

Agenda Item No.	Agenda Item Name
1	Apologies for Absence
2	Persons present
3	Current Composition of the BCA Council
4	Previous Meeting Attendance & Report Submissions
5	Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes
6	Officer Reports
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9	Items for Discussion
10	Any Other Business
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1.0 Apologies for Absence

David Jean, Richard Vooght, Stephan Natynczuk, Pete Knight

2.0 Persons present

Aidan Kuhlman, Allan Richardson, Chris Bolton, Rostam Namaghi, Tony Radmall, Gethin Thomas, Ian Healey, Isaac Neale, Jenny Potts, Linda Wilson, Mike Higgins, Peter Jackson, Sam Lee, Simon Perkins, Tim Nichols (TN), Todd Rye, Tom Phillips, Zac Woodford, Andy Eavis

No quorate number required.

Minutes compiled by Katie Eavis (not present at the meeting) from the zoom recording.

3.0 Current Composition of the BCA Council

	Position	Name	Initials	Vote
BCA Executive	Chair (2024-27)	Rostam Namaghi	RN	N
	Treasurer (2024-27)	Chris Bolton	CJB	Y
	Secretary (2024-27)	Aidan Kuhlmann	AK	Y
Individual Members Representatives	Position 1 (2025-2027)	<i>Vacant</i>		
	Position 2 (2024-2026)	Andy Eavis	AE	Y
Group Member Representatives	Position 1 (2025-2027)	<i>Vacant</i>		
	Position 2 (2024-2026)	Jenny Potts	JP	Y
Regional Council Representatives	CNCC	Todd Rye	TRY	Y
	CSCC	Linda Wilson	LJW	Y
	DCA	Mike Higgins	MH	Y
	DCUC	David Jean	DJ	Y
	FoDCCAG	Ian Healey	IH	Y
	Ogofa Cymru / Caving Wales	Allan Richardson	AR	Y
Constituent Body Representatives	Assoc. Caving Instructors	Sam Lee	SL	Y
	BCRA	John Gunn	JG	Y
	BCRC	Emma Porter	EP	Y
	CDG	Simon Perkins	SP	Y
	CHECC	Tom Phillips	TP	Y
	NAMHO	Peter Jackson	PJ	Y
	National Scout Caving Team	Tony Radmall	TR	Y
	William Pengelly CST	Richard Vooght	RV	Y
Working Group Convenors	Anchor	Pete Knight	PK	N
	Conservation & Access	Victoria Kocher	VK	N
	Finance	Chris Bolton	CJB	N
	Incorporation	Chris Bolton	CJB	N
	National Access	Rostam Namaghi	RN	N
	Publications & Information	Zac Woodford	ZW	N
	Qualification Management Committee	Stephan Natynczuk	SN	N
	Radon	<i>Dormant</i>		N
	Training & Equipment	Aidan Kuhlmann	AK	N
	Youth & Development	Isaac Neale	IN	N
Other Positions	BCL Representative	Jenny Potts	JP	N
	FSE Rep	Tom Phillips	TP	N
	Safeguarding Officer	Chris Boardman	CBD	N
	UIS Rep	John Gunn	JG	N
BCA Staff	Artificial Cave	Katie Eavis	KE	N
	Bookkeeper	Karen Lydon	KL	N
	Membership Admin	Katie Eavis	KE	N
	Training Admin	Mary Wilde	MW	N

4.0 Previous Meeting Attendance & Report Submissions

	Position	Initials	22/07	Report?	16/09	Report?	25/11	Report?	20/01	Report?	31/03	Report?	19/05	Report?	07/07	Report?
BCA Executive	Chair	RN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
	Treasurer	CJB	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
	Secretary	AK	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Members Representatives	Position 1		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
	Position 2	AE	N	N/A	Y	N/A	Y	N/A	Y	N/A	N	N/A				
Group Member Representatives	Position 1		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
	Position 2	JP	Y	N/A	Y	N/A	Y	N/A	Y	N/A	Y	N/A				
Regional Council Representatives N.B: Reports are optional	CNCC	TRY	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N				
	CSCC	LJW	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y				
	DCA	MH	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
	DCUC	DJ	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N				
	FoDCCAG	IH	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Y	N				
	Ogofa Cymru	AR	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y				
Constituent Body Representatives N.B: Reports are optional	ACI	SN	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N				
	BCRA	JG	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N				
	BCRC	EP	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y				
	CDG	SP	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y				
	CHECC	TP	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N				
	NAMHO	PJ	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N				
	NCSASU	TR	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N				
	WP CST	RV	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N				
Working Group Convenors	Anchor	PK	N/A	N/A	N/A	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y				
	C&A	VK	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
	Finance	CJB	Y	N/A	Y	N/A	Y	N/A	Y	N/A	Y	N/A				
	Incorporation	CJB	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
	National Access		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Y	N/A	Y	N/A	Y				
	P&I	ZW	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
	QMC	GP	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N				
	(Dormant) Radon		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
	T&E		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Y	N/A	Y				
	Y&D	IN	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y				
Other Positions	BCL Rep.	JP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y				
	FSE Rep	TP	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N				
	Safeguarding	CBD	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N				
	UIS Rep.	JG	N	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y				
	BCA Admin	KE	N/A	Y	N/A	Y	N/A	Y	N/A	Y	N/A	Y				

Note that Regional Council & Constituent body representatives are not required to submit reports and doing so is entirely at the representatives' discretion. Furthermore, Individual and Group Member representatives do not submit reports.

5.0 Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes

6.0 Motion: To accept the previous Council Meetings' Minutes as most recently submitted by the Secretary

Proposer: AK, **Seconder:** TR

For: AK, AR, CJB, TP, SP, MH, TRY, LJW, PJ, TRY, JP

Against: SL

Abstain: None

Motion passed.

7.0 Officer Reports

7.1 Executive

7.1.1 Chair (Rostam Namaghi)

A very short report from myself: I have received no proposals for constitutional change or policy discussion for the AGM. I had hoped to use this meeting time to work on both a more formalised summary of the Organised Fun situation – many thanks to Zac, Isaac and Tom for already laying the groundwork on this, and to highlight progress on incorporation. We have an executive meeting planned to bring this forward soon, and it will be a prominent item for discussion at the AGM (for a vote at a subsequent AGM).

Unfortunately, I have spent the last few weeks in hospital and have had 2 operations for a broken leg sustained in Mexico while caving (8 hours in and 425m deep). It has been an incredibly draining experience, and it is not lost on me that I have had two high-profile incidents in the last 6 months. I have spent some time reflecting on this and sometimes the roll of the dice is just unfortunate, still there are some learning points and I think it's a good opportunity to engage with the membership in a discussion about risk management – current plans are an article in Descent and a talk at Hidden Earth.

RN states he has still not had any proposed policy or constitutional changes for the AGM. He is hoping to use the AGM to set out the plan for incorporation. Soon RN, AK and CJB will email council with a clear constructive plan for incorporation.

7.1.2 Secretary (Aidan Kuhlmann)

Since the last Council Meeting, I have mostly been occupied with connecting the enquiries which enter my inbox with those in the British and International caving community who are better placed to assist them.

Discussion regarding BCA & SUI have continued and now feel like we are on the plateau of success, but I am hesitant to celebrate early as everyone knows it's further to the top than you think.

I have attended a meeting of the Anchor Working Group, and I have been slightly involved in efforts concerning the **BCA Annual** which you can read more about in Katie's report.

Efforts have continued to organise the AGM on **Sunday 28th of June at 10am Monyash Village Hall**. I must recognise the efforts Jenny, Katie, Victoria, and other DCA volunteers have been making on this front, especially as I have not been responsive as I would have liked to be over the last period as I have worked to make up for the lost work due to a medical incident I had just before last Council meeting, which is now thoroughly one-upped by Rostam's recent strong effort in that department.

Finally, separate to my BCA activities I attended a screening of the Right to Roam BFI funded film Our Land and while it does not mention caving it was promising to see such large public engagement with the issue of access to nature. It gives me hope for the future and that efforts of BCA the National Access are worthwhile, despite the current turmoil in government.

The executive reported on the situation regarding governance and qualifications in Northern Ireland.

AK has had more emails than usual from media organisations interested in caving and specifically cave diving. He has been directed these to appropriate bodies. Good to see a positive, growing profile for caving in media at the moment.

7.1.3 Treasurer (Chris Bolton)

The Finance Working Group met on 12 May and approved the 2025 grant claims by RCCs (provisionally, for CSCC as the claim has not been confirmed). I have updated the accruals. The claims total £10.7k, compared with £12.6k estimated by the Regional Treasurers in December 2025 and £17.2k allowed in the budget for 2025. The scrutiny of the 2025 accounts, including that change, is complete and the final version shows a surplus for the year of £2524 compared with a budgeted deficit of £5,930 (see Appendix).

I have continued to work with Katie to clarify what is covered by BCA's Public Liability Insurance. In particular we are trying remove ambiguity on whether, or to what extent, commercial activities are excluded.

The Incorporation WG has continued informal discussions and progress has been made on background issues such as a registered address and the transfer of the JustGo contract. It had been planned to table a more detailed report to this Council meeting. This has been delayed by Rostam's injury and will be made to the AGM.

Following the March Council meeting the Executive agreed a budget of £1200-£1500 for the Annual Publication, to cover printing, postage and two months subscription to the publishing software. Katie's time is not included in that estimate.

Expenditure in 2026 has been generally as expected. Small amounts have been spent by T&E WG and expenses for meetings on Organised Fun. The annual service on the trailer for the artificial cave identified that it needs two new tyres, which will cost about £100. I have agreed that we must spend this.

The budget for 2026 is not as tight as 2025, and expenditure in 2025 was significantly lower than budgeted. My message to Working Group Conveners and Regional Council Representatives is that the purpose of the budget is to tell you how much you can spend, not how little – please use your budget for the benefit of BCA and cavers.

Caving Wales included £3000 in their budget request for C&A projects by FODCCAG. As project C&A budget, that would be controlled by the C&A WG. FODCCAG requested that £1500 of this should be reallocated to FODCCAG's control for anchors, training and routine C&A. The C&A WG have confirmed their agreement to this.

We have renewed our contract with JustGo for support to QMC and Membership for 3 years rather than one year as we have previously. The annual

fee increases by CPI when the contract is renewed, so this means it will not increase in 2027 or 2028, potentially saving about £1000 in return for the commitment.

CJB asks LJW if she knows if the CSCC claim was confirmed at the CSCC AGM? LJW wasn't at AGM but will chase the treasurer.

CJB confirms the draft claim was approved and BCA can pay CSCC as soon as the draft claim is confirmed as correct.

7.2 Regional Council & Representative Body Reports (Optional)

7.2.1 CDG (Simon Perkins)

Exploration and working dives took place across the sections, with key highlights being the discovery of new passage in Yew Cogar Cave as a connection with Robinson's Pot is sought, in Trou Du Hibou, St. Engrance, France, where the way on is open beyond 100 m depth, and in Spain, where Aguanal has been connected to Barbancho, creating a 10 km through trip and extending the system to approximately 30 km.

A successful and well attended AGM took place in Ingleton on 25th April 2026.

The Derbyshire Section are hosting this year's training camp on the 11th to 12th July, at the Orpheus Caving Club.

SP adds 36 attended the AGM, which well up on last year. A good productive meeting with a good dinner followed by talks from Geoff Crossley and an old friend of Geoff Yeadons.

RN asks about a CDG Grece trip. SP states it happened last summer. No plans for an official CDG trip this summer, although members are active and a few are heading to the PSM. In 2027 CDG are planning a trip to Aria.

RN states it is nice to have a CDG report and attendee at this council meeting and adds if CDG ever need any support from BCA to get in touch.

SP states BCA helped advertise the AGM. He will discuss within CDG if similar is a good idea for the training camp and get back in touch.

7.2.2 CSCC (Linda Wilson & Joshitha Shivkumar)

The CSCC meeting took place by Zoom on Friday 8th May 2026. I wasn't present as I was in Derbyshire to run the BCRA Cave Archaeology field trip the following day, however Joshitha was able to be there to ensure continuity. I'm told the meeting was well attended.

All officer reports to the AGM can be found on our website:

<https://csccl.org.uk/wiki/documents/start#section2025>

The previous officers were re-appointed unopposed and are as follows:

- **Chair:** Dave Cooke
- **Secretary:** Frank Tully
- **Treasurer:** Tom Harrison

- **C&A:** Wayne Starsmore
- **Equipment:** Andrew Atkinson, with Matty Dredge
- **BCA Rep:** Linda Wilson, with Joshitha Shivkumar
- **Web officer:** Dave Cooke
- **Training:** vacant

C&A matters remain largely as previously reported, with no major changes or setbacks, which is always good.

Retrospective apologies from me (Linda) for missing the previous meeting without arranging cover. This was due to a wrong diary entry and a temporarily scrambled brain!

LJW adds the AGM was well attended and amicable.

LJW adds they are still looking for a training officer if anyone knows of a caver that might be interested CSCC would be pleased to hear from them. Although at the moment there doesn't seem to be a strong need to fill the role in their region.

LJW is hopeful that after a lot of hard work on the access front recently things will run smoothly and the C and A officer can have a bit of a quieter time!

AK suggests LJW gives a nudge to the CSCC equipment officer and deputy about attending Anchor WG meetings, so CSCC stays involved in the discussions. LJW confirms she will.

7.2.3 **DCA** (Mike Higgins)

Current access activity by DCA is centred on Faucet Rake, where the work to provide a stable shaft entrance has been carried out and just awaits a lid. Unfortunately, the plan to reopen the collapsed adit entrance has been found to be unrealistic as it's now been resurveyed and the amount of spoil needed to be removed would be approximately 50 tons. The logistics for the DCA programme of radon monitoring to take place in June / July are now pretty well finalised and work on the arrangements for the weekend of the BCA AGM on Saturday and Sunday, 27th and 28th June, are continuing.

Nothing raised at the meeting

7.2.4 **CNCC** (Todd Rye)

Nothing too major to report. Scanty Lardos has gone, and the committee cannot keep up with the requests to bolt it! Work is continuing on the Representation review.

The land containing Simpsons and Rowten Pot is up for sale, and we are keenly watching this to make sure we can keep access to these west Kingsdale gems. Additionally, we are reviewing our training program to ensure we are covered by the insurance.

TRY adds more detail about Scanty Lardos – almost a kilometre of passage found and 8 pitches so far, with more leads waiting.

TRY also reports the planned climb out of GG has taken place and he is looking forward to the film being released.

Currently busy in the Dales with one GG winch meet in May, another coming up in August and the Easegill Open house in June.

7.2.5 Ogofa Cymru/Caving Wales (Allan Richardson)

The DYO resurvey project is making good progress after an extremely wet winter which largely prevented access.

The DYO telemetry webpage system is being considered for a site in Derbyshire.

SWCC is currently the process of investigating reprinting the existing DYO surveys that it sells, this is similar to the existing survey but will be in colour with more information displayed on it.

Caving Wales is currently validating its member club list and found various ambiguities which need to be resolved. BCA has sent us a list of clubs which expressed an interest to be affiliated with Caving Wales, which together with our current list is assisting this process.

Caving Wales wishes to point out that it is not an Access Control Body in the sense of having legal liability anywhere, as a Landowner or Occupier does for third party and visitor risks, nor does it ever intend to be. Therefore, CW falls outside the scope of BCA's insurance offer for ACBs who have such liabilities. Can this be minuted please.

We have not had any recent contacts with the NRW.

Nothing raised at the meeting.

7.2.6 DCUC (Richard Vooght)

Since the last council meeting, DCUC has been extremely busy. There have been several projects, primarily related to Mine Access. Last year, the DCUC secured formal access to both entrances to Penn Recca mine. Allowing the possibility of reopening an old entrance to the mine, which was filled up by generations of farmers. This entrance has not been open for at least 60 years. At the beginning of this month, a large group of Cavers from both the Devon Spelæological Society and Plymouth University reopened the adit! At first inspection of the portal of the adit, it looks like a bit of shoring and a new gate will be required, so a C&A proposal is likely to come soon. A few pictures of this are attached to the report.



A massive step forward in terms of accessing Mines on the Duchy of Cornwall (Duchy) land. As you know, the Duchy owns a lot of land in both Devon and Cornwall, with the majority of it containing mines. The DCUC's Access Officer approached the Duchy to see how DCUC can help the Duchy with the mines on its land, potentially allowing access to the mines it owns in the future. We did a dummy run with the Mineral agent who works at the Duchy to get formal access to Golden Dagger Mine on Dartmoor, which went extremely well. The next step is to hold a few formal meetings with the Duchy to iron out the next steps.

Since Christmas, a boulder has moved in Pridhamsleigh Cavern. This boulder is in the Lake Chamber above the Divers platform. An investigation has taken place, and it has been decided not to do anything with the boulder, as the likelihood of it moving any further is remote. Picture on the right.

The last thing is that, since COVID, there was a major collapse at the Bedford United mine in the Tamer Valley. As part of a major stope, it collapsed halfway through the mine, cutting any trips to the mine in half. Over the last few summers, a small group of cavers, along with some Devon Cave Rescue Training Events, has done multiple trips to dig past the collapse. However, the

aim is to buy more Scaffolding for the dig to shore up the collapse further and prevent any further movement in that area.

Lastly, DCUC has bought 100 new BCA-approved P-bolts, which will be installed over the summer in various mines and caves in Devon and Cornwall.



Nothing raised at the meeting, although AK was pleased to see such a large and detailed report submitted by DCUC.

7.2.7 FoDCCAG (Ian Healey)

Work in the first two months of us becoming a Regional Council has progressed well.

Our main focus of present has been working hard to open Redhouse Lane Swallet to visiting cavers asap. This is partly dependent on weather conditions to complete the necessary, preparations but we are not too far off. Scaffolding of the new 'stretcher hole' breakthrough point into the main cave is being completed at present. On 17 May five participants completed a resin anchor training course with Andrew Atkinson (Equipment Officer of CSCC). This will now allow us to start installing FoDCCAG approved anchors on the main pitches in the cave before opening it. Certain areas in the cave will be designated as no entry for conservation reasons, but with now over 11Km of cave that will still leave a lot of cave to visit. As there are no plans to make this a warden led cave we will be relying on cavers to respect not entering the very limited restricted sections. Full route descriptions and a survey will be made available to cavers when a permit and key access is issued. On other matters, work has been done on the cave registry and a new website. We are also discussing with

the author possible use of Subterra as a reference for cave registry and as a possible on-line booking system. The next FoDCCAG committee meeting is on 16th June.

IH reads out his report, as it was submitted a bit late to have been circulated. He adds FoDCCAG are currently having email issues so may not be receiving BCA emails such as minutes.

CJB suggests using personal email addresses for now, so FoDCCAG doesn't miss anything, whilst they get their email addresses sorted. IH will send a list to AK to add.

CJB asks anyone who finds official BCA emails in their spam folders to send him a copy of the headers so he can try to work out the issue.

7.3 Working Group Convenor Reports

7.3.1 Anchor (Pete Knight)

Since our last meeting, the 'BCA Anchor Working Group Guidance on Conducting Test Beds v1.0' document has been completed, approved by the AWG, and published on the BCA website.

Before this Council meeting takes place a sub-group of AWG members will have met to discuss a first draft of a new 'Safety Information on Resin Bonded Anchors' document. This is the guidance published to covers for checking BCA anchors prior to use. It is intended to replace the current version published on the BCA website and be expanded to also include the pre-use inspection of chain and maillon pull-through assemblies installed by some RCCs.

I will be running a workshop for AWG members and regional installers on Saturday the 27th of June. This will focus on techniques to remove existing anchors of all types, and whether we can reliably reuse holes for future placements. This will happen at Horseshoe Quarry in Stoney Middleton Dale. Following this event, I hope to create a guidance document for the removal of old Spits, expansion anchors, DMM Eco, PECO, IC and BP anchors in the field to be used by BCA scheme installers. Council members are also welcome to attend, but please let me know if you do plan on coming so I can ensure that you have details of the timings and parking locations.

After some discussion at the last AWG meeting, it was agreed that there is no specific wording in any policy document published by BCA that limits the installation of BCA anchors to limestone. The meeting agreed that any region seeking to place anchors in non-limestone rock types could do so under the scheme, provided they gather sufficient evidence to show the anchor/resin/rock combination is suitable. The new anchor test bed guidance document will support their work, and I am also happy to personally assist in the practical or analysis side of the testing.

If Council has a specific question or direction for the AWG or myself that you would like to be addressed at the upcoming Council meeting, please contact

me by email and I will endeavour to send a written reply before the meeting takes place in case I am unable to attend in person.

AK explains the AWG are planning to create smaller, sperate documents which will be more accessible to members and easier to keep up to date.

AK also flags up the important development of determining the scheme is not specifically limited to Limestone, so with new test beds use in other rock types could be opened up. Which would be helpful for many mine sites.

GT adds that in 2014 a test bed scheme was done with 88 anchors in Slate, supported by the BCA.

AK can confirm that the AWG have the information from that study but have a bit more work they wish to do in that area.

7.3.2 Conservation & Access (Victoria Kocher)

No report received.

AK adds there has been a C and A meeting recently.

7.3.3 Finance (BCA Treasurer)

See Treasurer's Report.

7.3.4 Incorporation (Chris Bolton)

See Treasurer's Report.

7.3.5 National Access (Rostam Namaghi)

See Chair's Report.

7.3.6 Publications & Information (Zac Woodford)

In the last period I had a discussion with the Y&D officer about the ramifications of the Organised Fun report.

I've also continued working on the IDCK events rota. Attached is the preliminary events brochure. [See Appendices]

ZW reports he has had some encouraging news from the TSG in Derbyshire, who are interested in holding an event for the international day of Karst in Castleton Village Hall. They are looking to borrow some display boards.

JP says there are some stored at the library and requests ZW contacts her to discuss.

CJB adds there was talk of buying some information boards for BCA, and branded table coverings etc. These have been budgeted for.

Action: ZW to look into getting some information boards for BCA, and logo-ed table coverings.

ZW has reached out to ABIS (the Association of British Show Caves) about IDCK. He'd like members of the caving community to deliver talks in show caves on the day to introduce caving and the caving community. He is awaiting a response.

LW has been in contact with Kent's Cavern and they are keen to be involved with IDCK.

LW has also recently been at Pooles Cavern for a BCRA event and reports they would be very open to this sort of event. LW and JG (BCRA) have good contacts at the show cave.

LW is happy to help co-ordinate talks. She also suggests promoting some online talks, accessible to those all over the country. These could feature various caving projects, that members of the public could drop into via zoom on the day.

RN adds this could utilise talks already planned for Hidden Earth.

ZW interprets this as an offer by RN to provide a talk on the day.....

7.3.7 Qualification Management Committee (George Plant)

Just to keep it short, QMC has been busy with internal affairs recently. A lot of work has been done trying to streamline Updates for qualifications for the benefit of all our Cave Leaders.

The standardization of our syllabuses is also a big piece of work that's close to an end. This has involved a lot of people from all the regions and should be good for a long time once published – which will hopefully be after the end of this month.

I have resigned from my current role as Chair at QMC, with my last day being 28th June. I have been in post since January 2022 and it has been an education - thanks to everyone who has been involved. Four and a half years is plenty and now it's time to let someone else take the reigns - we have got that new person in Stephan Natynczuk. Stephan has been involved with QMC and the wider BCA for many years, so he should fit in and transition seamlessly!

So can I please ask here for you to formally accept Stephan as Chair and Convenor of QMC, please?

Motion: To Stephan Natynczuk as Chair of QMC from the 28th of June

Proposer: GT, **Seconder:** RN

For: AE, AK, AR, CJB, TP, SP, MH, TRY, LJW, PJ, TRY, SL, JP

Against: IH

Abstain: None

Motion passed.

The report from GP arrived too late to be circulated to council prior to the meeting, so GT read it aloud at the meeting.

RN adds normally a vote such as this would be done at an AGM, but as GP's last day is the date of the AGM it has been brought forward to this council meeting as there is no reason not to do it at a council meeting.

7.3.8 Radon (Dormant)

7.3.9 Training & Equipment (Aidan Kuhlmann)

The group is continuing to need a dedicated convenor to run the group. Nevertheless, slow progress is still happening. Pete Ward has been appointed as the BCA's representative to the British Standards Institute and is making progress in catching up to speed with the various relevant Working Groups within the BSI. He has written a report concerning a few updates which will be being shared round the Working Group and the Anchor Working Group for comments which I will then be collating comments on to feedback to Pete Ward. Furthermore, Pete Ward is now representing the BCA at the British Standards Institute, combining his personal and professional experience in the Work at Height Industry while also being aware of developments in industry which may be relevant to caving.

AK reports there is useful information coming back from Pete Ward as he gets set up working with BSI. In particular they are currently looking at standards for helmets for caving and canyoning. This is particularly useful as more and more helmets are designed to be replaced after any impact, which would not work for caving helmets, which see a lot of use.

MH asks AK to clarify the last sentence in his report. AK replies that SpanSet already sit on BSI bodies from the industrial point of view. So BCA is now benefiting from reports on both the recreational and industrial side which is useful. Another benefit is greater representation of BCA interests as Pete is able to attend a large number of these BSI meetings, which are during the working day so tricky for volunteers to attend.

RN adds Nick Williams filled this role for BCA for many years, and he wishes to re-iterate his thanks to Nick Williams for many years of service to BCA.

7.3.10 Youth & Development (Isaac Neale)

A very quiet period in Y&D since the releasing of the Organised Fun report. I've had no contact from any external parties asking for support for projects, advice, or issues.

I was made aware that Kent University Caving Club have not renewed their BCA membership. This is unfortunate, post pandemic they have never been in a particularly strong state however having met them in the past year I am a little surprised they have chosen to fold. Discussing the matter with some recent members, my understanding is that there simply ended up being little to no interest in continuing to run the club from any of this academic year's members (in the absence of those who recently left). One of the previous keen committee members may be able to be persuaded to return to the role upon their return from a year abroad, and I'll be offering a lot of BCA support to try and make that happen.

I am particularly worried about Lancaster. Since my last report neither ULSA, nor the CNCC Y&D Officer (The two parties we identified in the previous plan due to their location, resources, and willingness to help) have been able to generate two-way communication with LUSS. Discussing this with Mr. Holt (CNCC Y&D), he said he would be happy to form / head up a support group of cavers in the

area. If we've still not received contact from LUSS within the next two weeks we may contact the Lancaster SU directly, asking for our contact details to be passed to interested students.

It could be seen as alarming that we have two clubs potentially moribund for the same reason. In both cases the actions being taken also only tackle the symptoms and not the causes of the issue. It may be worth doing some research into clubs failing due to committees' interest turning elsewhere, and if there are any procedures we could advise student clubs to take to negate the damage of this if it were to happen to them. I'll be looking into it.

I am now receiving Ghar Paru emails alongside Tom Philips, hopefully great things will come from this increased level of collaboration.

This isn't the strongest report going into the AGM, which I find regretful. I was wondering if the BCA advertising space in Descent could be used to persuade people to think of / submit Y&D project ideas. It would give us a picture of what the community may want out of Y&D, we could then triage these and work on them as we see fit based off resource availability at the time.

IN adds he and others at BCA have had an email today from Organised Fun concerning forming a working group to define what a 'technical advisor' is. Their previous report suggested technical advisors were needed to look at what university clubs could do. IN suggests BCA should have an active presence at these meetings.

RN asks IN to forward the email to him.

7.4 Additional Reports by Appointed Officers

7.4.1 British Caving Library (Jenny Potts)

1. Archive Material

The file of material from Eric Hensler (including the original pencil and ink survey drawn in 1937 of Hensler's Crawl, G.G.) is now being scanned to be included in the BCRA Online Archives. This includes correspondence relating to the original G.G. survey (carried out by the Peveril Underground Survey Association), together with later printed G.G. surveys annotated by Hensler. The file also includes original surveys of parts of Swildons Hole, drawn between 1935 and 1937. (Hensler, who lived in the southeast of England, was a member of MNRC.)

The BSA archive folder "Peak Cavern. 1948-1961", on loan from TSG, has now been digitised and is available via the BCRA Online Archives. This comprises very detailed Log Sheets for every trip undertaken in Peak Cavern during this period plus correspondence between Les Salmon, the leader of the trips, and Eli Simpson, the BSA Recorder. The folder is now being returned to TSG with our thanks.

2. Non-printed items

Some organisations are no longer sending out printed copies of their publications, so we are beginning to receive certain periodicals only in pdf

format. In some cases, the publications are not available free of charge from the originator's website, but BCL will still be able to supply extracts to enquirers following the usual copyright rules.

JP adds the library has now had a chance to have a proper look through the Hensler files, which include an original muddy notebook detailing the exploration of Henslers crawl. Permission from his granddaughter is being sought, and then it should all be able to go online.

JP confirms the library are managing to keep digital copies of PDFs for those that request them, which is especially useful for clubs sending PDFs that don't have their own stuff available on their websites.

7.4.2 FSE Representative (Tom Phillips)

No report received.

TP reports he recently attended the FSE AGM. He thinks British cavers may be able to benefit from their project funders – not just expeditions but also caving projects.

TP also sees the opportunity to engage more with the FSE youth side and try to link up with British youth cavers.

7.4.3 Insurance Manager (Vacant)

7.4.4 Newsletter Editor (Vacant)

7.4.5 Safeguarding Officer (Chris Boardman)

No report received.

Nothing raised at the meeting.

7.4.6 UIS Representative (John Gunn)

There have been no meetings of the UIS Bureau since my report for the 31st of March meeting of BCA Council but there are two items of note for British cavers.

*[1] UIS has announced a first call for financial support for speleological events in 2026. Grants can be applied for to support international expeditions or other events focused on exploration, study, or protection of caves and karst, with emphasis on educational, technical and/or scientific cooperation. The UIS Bureau especially encourage young cavers and scientists to submit proposals for their projects, and the Bureau will take these submissions into prefer consideration. The **deadline is 12 June 2026** and there is a fund of EU 3,000 that will be split between supported projects. The Speleological Events Support Guidelines can be downloaded at <https://uis-speleo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Speleological-Events-Support-Guidelines-Version-2-September-2019.pdf>*

[2] The UIS Arts and Letters Commission, in collaboration with the UIS Karst and Cave Protection Commission (KCPC) and the UIS Biology Commission has announced the launch of the 2nd International Cave Photography Contest. The

theme is "Invisible Life, Visible Impact: Guardians of the Dark" and further details are given on the website: <https://uis-speleo.org/index.php/2026/04/28/the-2nd-uis-international-speleological-and-karst-photography-contest/>

[3] The UIS awards the **France HABE Prize** (EU300) annually to promote the protection of karst and caves. The deadline for submitting applications has been extended to 30 June 2026 and information on how to submit is on <https://uis-speleo.org/index.php/karst-and-cave-protection-commission/>

[4] You and many others will have received an email from Glenn Tuazon "Letter of Intent – Historical Exploration, Documentary Development & Scientific Site Assessment in the Philippines". I contacted Marc Mentens who is one of the other UIS Adjunct Secretaries and is the vice president in the Philippine speleological federation. He said that "Nobody knows him [Glenn] here in the caving groups" and that he has heard that similar emails have been sent to other national caving bodies. Marc is trying to find out more but if anyone has replied to the email from Glenn or has further information please let me [JG] know.

Points 3 and 4 were sent in just before the meeting , and too late to be circulated by email. AK read them aloud at the meeting.

On point 4 ZW notes the email was sent to every BCA email address and at exactly 9am. This might be worth treating with caution as potential spam, unless confirmed otherwise.

7.5 Reports by BCA Staff

7.5.1 Membership Administrator, Artificial Cave, & Insurance (Katie Eavis)

New clubs:

Labyrinths Cave and Mine Exploration (LCME) have now paid and can be considered a full member club

Bristol Caving have applied to join. They are a sub-group made up of UBSS members. The new club has been formed to keep the student union happy. Bristol Caving will be a student society comprising only student members, whereas UBSS will be an independent body. All Bristol Caving members will also be members of UBSS.

They have sent me their constitution, which is all fine, and have paid their club fee.

North Wales Mine/ Cave Explorers have expressed an interest in re-joining BCA. They were last a member in 2023.

Groups:

162 groups have so far joined BCA for 2026

Individuals:

6200 individuals have joined BCA for 2026 (directly or via clubs).

This is similar to the same date in 2025.

(End of 2025 BCA had 6763 members)

Insurance:

Most of the outstanding queries with the insurance I mentioned last report have now been sorted. In the end the responses from Howden/ Hiscox were generally what the BCA wanted out of our policy. The only issue was with the (lack of) speed with the replies.

Chris and I are talking to Howden on Thursday the 14th May to get some clarification on what the policy covers in terms of people who aren't professional caving instructors being paid to run geology, photography etc courses on behalf of regional councils.

Artificial Cave:

The cave trailer has now been serviced and has had two new wheels. We have not yet been invoiced for this.

It has been out on 3 bookings so far this year.

Social Media:

I am still trying to regularly post on the BCA website, Facebook, UKCaving and Buddlepit on behalf of the BCA, although have been less active lately as the annual report has taken up my time.

I'd welcome contributions from anyone in BCA. Please feel free to email me with anything that might interest BCA members and UK cavers generally.

Minutes:

Since the last council meeting, I have compiled minutes for the last council meeting, an Anchor working group meeting, and the 2025 AGM.

I have a Conservation and Access group meeting waiting, that I hope to write minutes for in the week commencing the 11th of May.

2025 BCA Annual Report

A first draft is just about ready, although I still have a few tweaks to make and a page to create and add. I have sent it to Rostam, Chris, Aidan and Zac for comments.

I have also run it by the printers who are happy with the layout.

I am hoping to have it complete and ready to send to the printers by the end of May, so we can have copies in time for the BCA AGM.

Nothing raised at the meeting

8.0 Acceptance of Reports

Motion: To accept the reports received by National Council from the BCA Officers and other representatives to the National Council

Proposer: LW, **Seconder:** TR

For: AK, AR, CJB, TP, SP, MH, TR, LJW, PJ, TRY, SL, JP

Against: None

Abstain: None

Motion passed.

9.0 Matters arising from the previous Council Meeting

Nothing raised at the meeting

10.0 Items for Discussion

Nothing raised at the meeting

11.0 Any Other Business

Nothing raised at the meeting

12.0 Details of the Next Meeting

Tuesday 7th July 7pm via Zoom

BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
INCOME		
Membership fees	132,962	113,856
Other income	5,693	6,082
Conservation & Access	0	0
Training Services	18,610	21,015
Publications & Information	0	0
Equipment & Techniques	0	0
Artificial Cave	540	(not itemised)
Meetings & Conferences	0	0
Web Services	0	0
Expedition Programme	0	0
International	0	0
TOTAL INCOME	157,804.68	140,953
EXPENDITURE		
Membership administration	17,529	23,043
Public Liability Insurance	78,020	75,703
BCA management	3,720	3,702
Conservation & Access	0	0
Instructor Training Services	20,276	21,181
Publications & Information	67	0
Caver Training	0	454
Artificial Cave	359	205
Training and Equipment	0	0
Youth Development	456	1,383
Radon Expenditure	0	0
IT Services	4,508	4,453
Regional Caving Councils	10,709	16,598
International	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	135,644	146,723
CHARITABLE DONATIONS		
British Cave Research Association		
for British Caving Library	16,636	12,000
Ghar Parau Foundation		
for Expedition Programme	3,000	3,004
<u>SURPLUS/ (Loss) FOR THE YEAR</u>	<u>2,524</u>	<u>(20,773)</u>
TAX	0	0
<u>SURPLUS/ (loss) FOR THE YEAR AFTER TAX</u>	<u>2,524</u>	<u>(20,773)</u>

BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
IT equipment	449	
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stocks	0	0
Debtors and Prepayments	2,268	14,569
Balances at Bank and cash in hand	231,270	189,925
	<u>233,987</u>	<u>204,494</u>
LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors and Accruals payable within one year	81,741	60,737
NET ASSETS	<u>152,246</u>	<u>143,757</u>

REPRESENTED BY :

Balance brought forward	63,757	84,808
Surplus/(loss) for year	2,524	(20,773)
Prior year corrections	5964	(277)
	<u>72,246</u>	<u>63,757</u>
less transfer to Reserve	<u>38,300</u>	<u>0</u>
	33,946	63,757
Reserve	118,300	80,000
TOTAL	<u>152,246</u>	<u>143,757</u>

Approved on behalf of the Executive Committee

R Namaghi, Chairman

Date

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Accounting Policies

a) Basis of Accounting

The accounts have been prepared under historical cost accounting rules

b) Equipment

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

2 General Reserve

The Reserve is held at a level which allows a minimum of 75% of annual turnover (income)

3 Result for the year

There is a surplus for the year of £2524 compared with a budgeted deficit of £5,930

This compares with a declared deficit for 2024 of £20773 (reduced by prior year corrections of £5964)



UK International Day of Cave and Karst Events Roster

For the [International day of Cave and Karst](#) the UK BCA BCRA working group has come up with a roster of events that we aim to deliver. These events are designed to not only showcase the importance of caves and karst but also the activities of the UK caving community, both domestically and internationally.

All of the events are designed to create visibility for caves and caving through in-person interaction with the general public. Given the remoteness of many caves, events will have to be hosted at more accessible venues. The three key types of venue identified are Caving Huts, Show-caves and community/village halls.

The events listed in this document are by no means exhaustive and members of the community are encouraged to organise and put on their own events.

Show-cave Events

The primary event we want to deliver is at least one show-cave in every major caving region is a talk or series of talks from an expert in the community. These talks could be on geology, hydrology, archeology, photography, filming, expeditions, rescues etc. These will need volunteers within these areas of experience to come forward and deliver these talks.

Such talks will also provide the show-caves with the opportunity to draw in more customers as well as improving relationships between the caving community and showcaves.

If the show-caves are open to it, they would also be a good venue to host “meet a caver” events where members of the general public could talk to members of the community about caves and the sport of caving. This would also require community volunteers.

Caving Hut Events

Caving huts provide venues for members of the general public to engage with community members and for us to answer questions as well as showcase surveys/photographs and other such paraphernalia that the general public are unlikely to come across. These events would require club owning huts to set up displays in their common areas and have volunteers on hand to talk to members of the public. Huts that would most benefit from this event would be ones in areas with high foot traffic, such as the TSG.

Caving huts could also put on talks, in the same way as show caves, these could also be tailored to the history of the club and its exploration in both the surrounding area, the rest of the country and abroad.



Village/Community Hall Events

Events hosted in Community halls could be replicas of the ones hosted in caving huts (i.e. meet and greets, poster displays and talks) but with the benefit of not being constrained to caving regions. They could therefore be hosted where they are likely to get higher foot-fall.

Additional Events

Clubs could also provide “give it a go” sessions to members of the public who book in advance. Open events could also be hosted at the caves themselves, where they are more accessible, such as Swildon's hole, where members of the public could be invited to “peer” into the entrances.



Speleological events support 2026 - new Call!

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

we are glad to inform you that the first Call for speleological events support in 2026 is open! Granted can be the international expeditions or other events focused on exploration, study, or protection of caves and karst, with emphasis on educational, technical and/or scientific cooperation.

UIS Bureau especially encourage young cavers and scientists to submit proposals for their projects, and the Bureau will take these submissions into prefer consideration.

All requests should contain description of the proposed event as detailed as you are thinking is important for understanding the aims of your project, the purpose for which the funds will be used, and show explicitly that the proposed event is in line with the **Statutes, Internal Regulations and Code of Ethics of the UIS**. Requests which do not meet these requirements will not be accepted.

In case of **speleological expeditions**, participants have to be from **at least 3 different countries**, one of which is recommended to be the host country where the project will be conducted.

Detailed conditions and more details about speleological events support can be found in Speleological Events Support Guidelines on <https://uis-speleo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Speleological-Events-Support-Guidelines-Version-2-September-2019.pdf>, or please, do not hesitate to ask UIS Vice-President of Administration Mario Parise at mario.parise@uniba.it.

The deadline for this Call is on June 12, 2026.

All requests received till the deadline will be evaluated by UIS Bureau and the best projects will be supported. For this Call, the UIS Bureau decided to dedicate a maximum amount of **3000 - EUR**, meaning that this total amount can be split between **ALL** supported projects. All requests received after the deadline will not be accepted, but can be submitted for the next call.

Differently from what reported in the Speleological Event support Guidelines, please send all request before the deadline to the UIS via Adjunct Secretary Marc Mentens at marcbingcacao@gmail.com and Adjunct Secretary Allan Calux at ascalux@gmail.com (in CC).

Before submitting, please ensure that:

- 1) the proposal and all supporting documents are submitted in one single PDF file;**
- 2) the proposal includes a statement from the applicant(s) that the proposed event meets the Statutes, Internal Regulations and Code of Ethics of the UIS;**
- 3) the proposal states the amount of funding requested and the purpose for which the funds will be used.**

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their proposal in middle July.

Mario Parise

UIS Vice-President of Administration