



Increase in the BCA membership fee from £17 to £20 from 1/1/2022.

Statement from the BCA Executive

Executive summary:

For the last 2 years BCA has been spending more than it's been raising in income and reducing its reserves. The increase in the membership fee is looking to alter that situation. The last fee increase was a long time ago. Some fees have reduced in the last few years. The proposal does not affect student fees, non-caving member fees or club fees, merely member fees that are currently £17 increasing to £20. This proposal was passed by BCA Council in July 2021 with no votes against.

Detail:

Income reduction

In the last few years BCA income has reduced for several reasons:

- 1) Membership decline in 2021 , possibly impacted by Covid
- 2) Reduction in club membership fee to a flat £25 per club
- 3) Reduction in CIM fee to mirror DIM fee in 2020

It is forecast that between these 3 reasons BCA Income for 2021 will be the lowest for many years.

Increase in expenditure

BCA Council has agreed on-going increases in expenditure most notably as follows:

- 1) Increase in Public Liability cover from £5m to £10m.
- 2) Increase in subsidy of the National caving library.

The BCA C&A committee has also approved C&A projects in recent months that are out with normal expenditure levels.

All of this expenditure provides better member benefits for BCA members.

Reserves

BCA has built up reserves since its inception in 2003. Every year it has reported a surplus. 2020 was the first deficit in its history and 2021 will also record a deficit. Should the CRoW legal case end in a loss in court then BCA reserves could halve in 2 years. Our ability to continue to fund deficits going forward is therefore limited.

The fee increase should allow BCA to better balance its books unless of course another extraordinary issue such as CRoW comes along in the near future.