



## **The British Caving Association Membership News December 2025**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to  
all BCA member clubs and members!**

### **Welcome to our new member clubs!**

BCA would like to say a warm welcome to our newest member clubs – the HSI caving club, Combined Caving and Diving club and Lincoln caving club.

There is a wealth of knowledge both within BCA and amongst our group members so please reach out if there is anything your club needs assistance with.

### **Key BCA dates**

The BCA AGM will be held on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> June in Monyash, Derbyshire. Plans are afoot to make it a whole weekend event, so save the date! More details to follow soon.

Dates for upcoming BCA council meetings:  
20<sup>th</sup> January, 31<sup>st</sup> March, 19<sup>th</sup> May, 7<sup>th</sup> July  
These meetings are held at 7pm, via zoom.  
Anyone wishing to attend would be welcome, and should email the BCA secretary:  
[secretary@british-caving.org.uk](mailto:secretary@british-caving.org.uk)

Hidden Earth will be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2026 at Llangollen Pavilion.

More BCA events can be found here:  
[Events - British Caving Association](#)

### **2026 Membership Renewals now open**

Hopefully all clubs are aware BCA renewals are now open for 2026. A big thank you to the

very organised groups who have already renewed!

Clubs do have until the 31<sup>st</sup> of March to renew and pay, to be considered to have continuous membership, however it is recommended clubs aim for the end of February latest, so there is time to deal with any problems that arise.

Clubs can renew entirely online via the membership system, or entirely by email or a combination of the two! If you have any questions or issues at all with renewing for your club please email and BCA will be very happy to help. (Email in footer)

### **Insurance is just one perk of BCA membership**

As all the clubs ask their members to renew both their club and BCA membership we would like to remind clubs not to refer to BCA membership as 'BCA insurance'. BCA is not licensed to sell insurance, we provide it as one of many perks of membership.

As well as the PL insurance BCA funding benefits cavers across the country in many ways, including funding p-bolts in caves and mines, funding conservation projects, supporting projects to encourage youth and student caving, helping raise the profile of caving at a national level and helping fund the British Caving library etc.

### **Protecting your club**

The BCA has recently been made aware that one of our member clubs has been defrauded of a large sum of money by a person they believed to be a trusted member of their caving club. In covering their tracks this member also deleted nearly all of the club's records and data. The individual involved is now in police custody.

This has been incredibly upsetting and difficult for the club, and they feel they have no option but to disband the club. Thankfully their enthusiasm for caving remains and a

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new club is already being set up.

Whilst no-one is to blame in this situation, except the perpetrator of the frauds, it seems a good opportunity to remind all our clubs of the importance of ensuring multiple members have access to club accounts and the importance of ensuring dual approval of payments out of club accounts. Please consider ensuring your club has undeletable backups of club data and records, that multiple members have access to. This will help to protect the club against mistakes, viruses, and the possibility of a key member suddenly leaving the club, and no-one else having access to the data/ accounts.

### **Working Mines**

A recent enquiry by a BCA member club raised concerns that working mines may not be covered by the BCA public liability (PL) insurance policy.

In response to this issue BCA undertook some research into the definition of working mines, and how many of our member clubs were active in these.

A meeting with our insurance broker, Howden, was held in early December where BCA clarified working mines included mines maintained by volunteers and those that allow visitors, and also how important including these working mines was to BCA and our group members. Howden were able to immediately reassure us that these mines are included in the current BCA PL policy and will be for 2026. So please be assured if your group looks after a mine considered a 'working mine' but where no ore extraction or paid employment takes place, these are covered for PL risks by the BCA policy.

Please note the BCA policy only covers these mines (and any caves/ mines/ underground sites) for public liability risks. In the same way the BCA policy covers caving huts for PL risks, but we expect the clubs to arrange their own building and contents cover, your group should check the mine owner has the mine

insured for property risks. If your group own or lease the mine and need to insure it our broker, Howden, would be happy to help arrange appropriate cover.

You can contact Ellie Doubleday:

[ellie.doubleday@howdengroup.com](mailto:ellie.doubleday@howdengroup.com)

### **Tours and trips for members of the public**

At the same meeting with Howden BCA also took the opportunity to discuss the situation regarding groups who take members of the public underground on tours in a unpaid, voluntary role with no profit being made, and any donations or fees channelled back into the maintenance of the cave/ mines and/ or equipment for visitors.

Discussions were very positive and it is very likely BCA will be able to cover these trips within the scope of our PL policy. However to be acceptable for the insurers BCA will need to implement some guidelines for groups running trips for members of the public. These are yet to be confirmed but won't overly onerous, and most of your groups will already have these risk management/ safety procedures in place e.g. a limit on the size/ scale of the event/ tours, a surface safety briefing pre-trip, a risk assessment, guidelines on number of people per trip etc.

\*Please note this is separate to taking 'prospective members' underground. As usual you need to record details of prospective members and send these to BCA. After a maximum of 4 trips prospective members must join BCA or stop caving with your group.

### **Incident Notification**

BCA would like to remind all our members about the importance of notifying us of any incidents that have the potential to become an insurance claim, so we can communicate with our insurers. Please let us know ASAP after an incident, even if you think it unlikely to develop into a claim.

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