

BCA Training & Equipment Working Group Meeting

1st June 2023

Draft Minutes

In attendance:

Steve Gray SG (Training Officer and Convenor) SG
Mark Richards MR (CNCC Equipment Representative) MR
Russell Myers Recorder RM
Bob Mehew (Observer for rope testing rig item) BM
Jo White BCRA Training Officer JoW
Ian Patrick CNCC Training Officer IP
Dave Keegan CSCC Training Officer DK

Apologies received from:

Nigel Atkins
Richard Hill

1. Acceptance of the minutes from the meeting held on 29th November 2022

Proposed Mark Richards seconded Steve Gray– accepted unanimously.

2. Matters Arising

a) Other than the item below, all matters arising from the November 2022 meeting were to be considered in this meeting Agenda.

b) Ask the IT Manager to arrange uploading documents to the website – no progress from November - RM to action.

3. Training Officer's Reports

Reports were received (attached as appendices) and accepted unanimously from:

DCA

CCC

CNCC

No further actions were noted.

4. Draft Terms of Reference

MR had circulated a draft ToR but no clear decision had been made to accept it.

Action: MR to re-circulate the draft ToR for agreement.

5. What is my Budget?

SG outlined his predicament following a number of requests for training funding. RM produced a copy of the 2023 Budget (copy attached) approved by Council in March showing £154 .00.

SG identified three key areas he thought merited funding support:

Clubs; Specialist training and Techniques.

A lengthy discussion ensued out of which the following actions arose:

1. RM to find out how the budget can be increased.
2. SG to convene a further meeting of Regional Training Officers to agree a process/procedure for funding requests from clubs.
3. JoW to circulate the original application form for funding requests.
4. MR was asked to ask Josh White for a breakdown on expenditure of Y and D expenditure.

6. CHECC funding request for a specialist event (correspondence in appendices)

The request was discussed and agreed unanimously to provide £360.00 if this was available.

Action. RM pursue funding routes including referring the request to Youth and Development.

7. Panga Helmet Report

SG reported a concern with the cradle for these helmets cracking at a connecting link. Agreed to circulate the information and ask for feedback to gauge the extent of the problem before taking it any further.

MR offered to consult AHOEC and feedback as they had raised issues regards this topic. This offer was accepted

8. Petzl Aven and Avanti harnesses

SG gave an update on the situation about Petzl addressing the “slipping” leg/back loops and together with Chris Boardman was awaiting a response from Petzl following the checks he and Chris had made on the adaptation provided by Petzl.

The situation had become frustrating through Petzl’s slow response and a discussion took place about when to “go public” and warn cavers about the issue.

Agreed to delay a week to enable Chris to follow up with Petzl and if it comes to publicising the issue to use all the media available to us.

9. Anchors

SG reported a lack of progress in destroying the sub-standard bolts he was currently holding in his store following an offer to destroy them falling through and requested help. IP offered to take on the task which was agreed. RM asked for a paper trail and signatures to verify the destruction of the anchors and also offered to help and act as a witness.

10. Rope Testing Equipment

BM had submitted a report which was accepted by the group and noted that an offer to take the mobile rig had been received rather than it be scrapped. Finding a rope testing officer was proving difficult with no further progress from Fabian Ehlers.

11. New to Caving

SG gave an update on progress including proposals by RRCPC to run an event. IP noted that the CPC had already run a similar event.

12. Belt testing

SG reported that we were awaiting compilation of the results by Gethin Thomas.

13. Dawo Acetyled light.

SG reported that he had been in contact with the above company who were seeking a review of the product which SG was hoping to see on a forthcoming work trip to Italy.

14. AOB

BM pointed out that at the end of his report he refers to the incident in Keswick which has relevance to head-up suspension trauma and whether we need to put a warning/reminder out about the issue. A detailed discussion took place, following which, it was agreed to take up BM's offer to draft a note and circulate members for comment before posting on all available media.

DK requested recommendations for a source of SRT rescue training. Members of the Group offered to send contact details to him of potential trainers.

15. Date and Time of next meeting / meetings

SG thanked the Training Officers for the activities they had been involved with and work with the WG. He suggested the next meeting of the WG be in October/November 2023.

16. Appendices

Regional Training Officers Reports and Correspondence

CNCC Training Officer Report

24th May 2023

CNCC Training officer report

The Spring/Summer training workshops are ticking along nicely, pretty much all the workshops are “Full” and we have received some really nice feedback.

We are now starting to think about the Autumn/Winter programme.

Assistant Training Officer role

I have asked if a “Co Opted” role of “Assistant Training Officer” can be created.

I would then like to offer this role to Mark Richards.

Mark has been incredibly supportive and a big part in helping set up the training workshops from the very beginning, I regularly use him as a sounding board and highly value his expertise and knowledge.

Having this role may also be beneficial in the future as it could help recruit new people to the “Training Officer” / “Assistant Training Officer” position as it wouldn’t appear as daunting.

A “Training administrator” is next on my list !

New Equipment

We have replaced our “Old Stops” with the new version, purchased some more “Frenios” and also purchased a Petzl Microtraxion, Roll Clip and some cord.

The funding for this equipment came from the CNCC and also from the Sale of the old style “Stops”. The sale of the Stops was done by myself in my own name, I then purchased the Microtraxion, Rollaclip and cord.

I will add all our SRT equipment to the CNCC “Asset List in due course”

First Aid workshop

Following an “advert” on UK caving we now have a new trainer onboard who will be developing and delivering first aid workshops aimed at cavers.

The new trainer is Nicky Credland who has a company called “React fast first aid”

The workshops will be non certified even though Nicky is a qualified First aid trainer and could run certified courses.

By keeping them non certified, Nicky has a lot more flexibility to fully tailor the workshops to cavers, it also keeps the costs to participants down.

Nicky has agreed to the standard trainer fee of £150.00 per day. As with all the CNCC trainers, this fee is significantly lower than the “market rate” and I am grateful she has come onboard.

“Leadership” workshops

We have put together some new style workshops, aimed at giving experienced cavers skills useful when in a position of “responsibility” for less experienced cavers.

One of these workshops has been run and it proved very successful. This is an area we will look to develop as we run more and get feedback.

(As an aside, with the addition of these leadership workshops, the CNCC now cover EVERY aspect of the whole BCA "Instructor" scheme, obviously without any "certification" which will absolutely not happen "on my watch".)

Thanks as always to the "training team" and others who without, these workshops wouldn't happen.

Thanks also to the YSS and CPC for the generous use of their premises.

Ian Patrick

CNCC Training Officer

May 2023

DCA

SRT Training

With the formation of the DCA Training Committee, I am pleased to report that most of the DCA clubs are now delivering SRT training to their members in line with current BCA good practice in the CIC scheme. This has been achieved by their training officers being in touch, attending workshops and even CIC training courses. If you a DCA club wishes to deliver their own SRT training, it would be useful to get them involved with the DCA training committee as this will help 'train the trainers' of their club.

Following my 2 recent training courses looking at the caving techniques of the BCA award scheme and the coaching guidelines, I am feeding anything relating to coaching guidelines back to the BCA Training Officer to continue in the training committee which is where these were originally set up and should remain.

Best wishes

Nige

DCA TRAINING OFFICER

Cambrian Caving Council Training and Equipment meeting Nov 2022

Hi Steve

i am away this week with the family

I will try and join in on the phone but no promises. Please can we do a doodle poll or similar to set the next date.

I would like to come and think we need to discuss some things.

CCC workshops have gone well this year and now stopped for the summer. We don't have the same demand as DCA or CNCC (I just about fill the workshops that we do run) but I will arrange some more for the autumn. I have not run anything in NWales for a while firstly due to Covid and then this year the venues I contacted were prohibitively expensive. If Baggy has any ideas please let me know.

I am not sure how to go forward with CCC costs; If we start to charge only £30/head every workshop will run at a loss and therefore involve more work recovering money from BCA..... We don't have an expert prepared to set up a system like CNCC have.

With regard to the SWCC event, I am a bit torn, Jo White is correct saying that we used to have a way for clubs to apply for a grant but that seems to have fallen by the wayside. I think that could still be an option but I would like to see Jo charging a real price for the event too? Or could it be arranged through regional council but again in this case, SWCC is CCC but it is based in Yorkshire which is CNCC!

can you share this with the rest of the working group please in case i can't make it.

*Thanks
Rich*

Rope testing

Hi Steve

My offering of reports is beneath. I presume the meeting is going ahead.

Bob

STARTS

Rope Testing

The tensile rig has been re-erected at the home of a member of BCA. Some work has been undertaken using it and the results are being processed.

No one appears to be interested in taking on the role of Rope Test Officer. One person did express interest in the mobile test rig but needed to find a place to store it. I have sent him a final reminder. If no response is received by 7 June, then I shall take the rig to a scrap merchants and pay any money received into the BCA account.

Radon

A few pieces of data has been collected since the 3rd edition of Radon Underground was published. It appears that the recent data has been posted on the BCA web site in one spread sheet. But it is not clear if Tables 5.1 and 5.2 have been updated in another spread sheet (although the impact is thought to small). I will ensure that this is done in the next month or so after I have had an update from the previous Chair of the Radon WG.

Rescue during practice sessions

The recent 4 hour long rescue of a stuck person in an artificial cave in Kendal has triggered the thought about whether people have got up to date plans to implement a rescue during a practice session such as in a SRT facility. An HSE report cites a paper noting that "Motionless head up suspension leads to presyncope [trauma] in most normal subjects within 1 hour and in a fifth within 10 minutes", see <https://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrpdf/rr708.pdf> . It is suggested that a suitable message be issued by the Committee to clubs and through other channels reminding persons responsible for such facilities to ensure their rescue plans are up to date.

Bob Mehew

ENDS

CHECC -correspondence

Hi Steve,

I've spoken to Mike about booking the Barn for Saturday the 16/9 for the leader training weekend. Full price is £25 per head this year but he's offered me £15+VAT. So aiming for 20 students and not paying for 5 or so trainers it would be £360 for the day.

We've booked the YSS for digs so if the weather is awful on Sunday we can potentially fall back on their wall and conference room for more training.

If we can get trainer fuel costs paid again we'll be after something like £500-600 total for the weekend. So £25-30 per attendee if we can fill it up which I'm hoping people see the value of!

Will you be back from Italy by then? We couldn't run it any later and still get it done before some unis start up again.

Cheers,
Corin

SWCC -correspondence

Dear Steve Grey,

I am trying to organise some Advanced and Rigging SRT training for the South Wales Caving Club members.

I have a very good offer for the training to be delivered by Jo White and Helen Hooper in Yorkshire at quite competitive prices.

However, I would like to make the price more affordable for the members, ideally matching the price of the recent excellent training program offered by the Council of Northern Caving Clubs. This is £30 per person per day.

To achieve this I would need a contribution of about £110 per 4 members for 2 days training based in Yorkshire, with one day on the YSS SRT wall and one day underground.

Please let me know if British Caving Association would be able to offer any help with this.

Kind regards

Tomasz Zalewski

Training and Safety Officer

SWCC