



BCA Youth & Development Meeting 28/11/2024

Attending: Tony Radmall [TR] (National Caving Scout Active Support Unit), Chris Boardman [CB] (BCA Safeguarding Officer), Tom Phillips [TP] (CHECC Chair), Zac Woodford [ZW] (P&I), Kai Trusson [KT] (CHECC Training Officer).

Introductions from all.

Follow up for previous projects mentioned in the last sets of minutes:

- TR: Charterhouse caves minimum ages: Now 14 and must have done two other 'days' of caving.
- TR: Scouts wise: Each county fairly autonomous. Scouts fairly organized as a whole, but not organized in a mixing way. Due to a recent event, processes may be about to change. Any of the youth sectors fall just outside the BCA, fuzzy circumstance to then work with.
- TR: Other youth sectors: Guides, Army cadets, forest camps. Most use professional cave leaders. Scouts, at least, follow the commercial sector – in mines for instance follow a 'blue route'.

Under 18 youth caving:

CB: Almost no clubs have gone forward with under 18 caving. Clubs potentially don't want the responsibility for under 18s. It's not a hard process for a club to take young people caving, its just a process and the interest isn't there at this time. Also cultural questions exist around caving club huts being spaces adults go to relax. Is that environment conducive to being shared with children? KT corroborates.

TR + CB cannot recall previous or ongoing projects.

IN opens floor to any suggestions of Y&D projects / direction to those present at meeting.

TR + TP suggest making student and other young cavers more aware of Ghar Peru / Alex Pitcher award funding opportunities.

ZW recalls the BCA funding given previously that allowed two university clubs to attend the previous UIS conference. Discussion ensues. IN For UIS in Brazil, whilst early tickets are ¼ of the price a ticket sits at roughly £80. Very large travel fees, however. Pitfalls in travel cost, and deadline for low ticket price is the 1st of January.

KT raises the success of the recent CHECC short-form video competition. Could there be an option to expand that to other Y&D areas? Scouts perhaps however KT realises potential pit falls in safeguarding practices.

TR + CB + KT + TP: Much of Josh Whites tenure as Y&D Officer centred around CHECC and the re-building of university caving clubs post pandemic. CHECC as an organisation is running steadily now, most recent National forum is seen as one of the smoothest running ever, and CHECC is now operating at a small profit.

Rounding up / actions to take forward.

- IN to go back to Rostam for further specific direction.
- Scout caving currently jumbled. Will monitor but hold off on action until current situation passes.
- A push for more caving media presence will occur.
- An investigation will take place into if we can put together a funding application system for UIS, however all accept that since the low cost ticket option only exists until the 1st of January, this may be unlikely.
- Y&D being more 'loud and visible' in the hope of attracting projects

With these actions in mind it was decided another meeting would take place around February. Hopefully by which time more projects would have been acquired to be taken forward.