

BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION



The meeting of the BCA National Council was held
10:30 am on Saturday 5 January 2008 at Alvechurch Church Hall, Alvechurch

Present –

Mick Day (MD)	BCA Chairman
Dave Cooke (DC)	BCA Treasurer
Simon Froude (SF)	BCA Honorary Secretary
Graham Mollard (GM)	BCA Training Officer
Elsie Little (EL)	BCA Cons. & Access Officer
David Judson (DJu)	Liability & Insurance Officer/BCRA Representative
Les Williams (LW)	Publications & Information Officer
Glenn Jones (GJ)	Council of Northern Caving Clubs Representative
Jenny Potts (JP)	Derbyshire Caving Association Representative
Steve Holding (SH)	NAMHO Representative
Chris Jewell (CJ)	BCA Youth & Development Officer / CHECC Rep.
Boyd Potts (BP)	Club Representative, Orpheus Caving Club
Bernie Woodley (BW)	Club Representative, S.W.C.C.
Emma Porter (EP)	Individual Member Representative
Damian Weare (DW)	BCA Annual Handbook Editor / Individual Member Representative
Mike Clayton (MC)	BCA Newsletter Editor

- Chairman's Welcome:** MD welcomed members to this Council Meeting.
- Apologies for Absence:** Received from:

Andy Pryke (AP)	BCA Equipment Officer
Sue Mabbett (SM)	CCC Chair./Rep
Dave Jean (DJe)	Devon & Cornwall Representative
Alan Finch(AF)	Pengelly Secretary/Rep.
Stephan Natynczuk (SN)	Ass. Caving Instructors Representative
Owen Clarke(OC)	Club Rep. Cwmbran CC
Idris Williams (IW)	Club Rep. Shropshire Scouts CC
Andy Eavis (AE)	BCA U.I.S. Rep.
Bob Mehew (BM)	BCA Rope Testing Officer
Karen Slatcher (KS)	BCA Training Administrator
- Applications for Club Membership:**
Applications from three clubs: Uni. Of Cumbria CC, West Sussex CC and Rolls Royce CC .
Agreed to accept them as members.
- Minutes of Last Council Meeting (9 June 2007)** – Item 6.e should read "JOINT DIMs – caver(s) member(s) rate will rise by up to £2". Notes were made to this effect by the Chairman. Minutes then accepted as a true record
- Matters Arising from Minutes:** Item 14.b Non receipt of membership cards – Found not to be a problem. Item 10.b Consultation document on anchor placement. GM expressed surprise that Training Committee hadn't been invited to comment by Equipment Committee and that there had been no contact since the meeting in June.

OFFICERS REPORTS

- Chairman** (Written report tabled)
 - MD reported on the restructuring of the body dealing with grants for international travel, which includes holding international meetings in the UK. MD will pass on details of BCA international Rep (Ged Champion) as the BCA contact to this body.
 - Application to join the "BingoLotto" scheme has been made and confirmation received. There are hints that publicity material in the form of film/tv programmes may be made about people involved in the activities funded

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by the scheme. This will be progressed when further information is received. There may be restrictions on how funding from the scheme can be spent but if it becomes apparent that the scheme is of little use to BCA then we can leave it.

- c. Sport England three year strategy consultation. BCA has opportunity to feed into process ~ especially to the "increase participation in sport" aspect. DJ & GM to compose response to be sent by MD.

7. Secretary

- a. AGM notification has been sent to all DIM's and will be sent to member Clubs in the very near future. Notification also needs to be sent to Council members who are not DIM's. An amended Council list was sent out to Council members before Christmas.
- b. Minutes of Council meetings, AGM notification and Agenda need to be posted on the BCA website.

8. Treasurer

- a. Report tabled.
- b. Online payment system is in the process of being set-up. This requires a PayPal account and also a Credit Card Account. No problems were identified with data security as PayPal deals with Credit Card details and the BCA side of the system will have minimal personal data. Proposed that BCA sets up PayPal Account. Council voted on proposal and unanimously approved the setting up of a PayPal account. Proposed that BCA sets up Credit Card Account. Council voted on proposal and unanimously approved the setting up of a Credit Card account.
- c. A data security issue was identified where past BCA/NCA officers may still hold files containing personal information. These need destroying.
- d. Ghar Parau Foundation (GPF). Council agreed to grant GPF £5,000 and instructs DC to action this as soon as possible. Council no longer requires the BCA treasurer to be an ex-officio member of GPF. Council also requires GPF to provide an end of year statement detailing how the money has been spent. A copy of these requirements needs to be sent to Roo Walters of GPF. GPF have a BCA account which could now be closed as a result of the motion now passed.
- e. New expenses claims forms have been uploaded to the Officers area of the BCA website. Project to develop member database is ongoing.
- f. Question whether Regional Councils have had their payments as CCC haven't received theirs. DC replied that this payment is currently in-hand.
- g. DC to look at publishing finance minutes on website so that members can see where money is being spent

9. Conservation Officer

- a. Access negotiations with the NT have reached a successful conclusion. The agreement should appear on the NT website and can form a useful basis for negotiations with other organizations. Unfortunately, explosives are still viewed as a different type of digging tool and will require separate negotiations as their use has been excluded from this document..
- b. "Access to Coasts" discussions are still ongoing. There has been a Government decision to go for primary legislation which will result in an Act similar to CRoW. The timetable for this is uncertain.
- c. Guidance on accessing BCA funding for Conservation and Access. DC to write notes and circulate to interested parties.
- d. YDNP are to set up a "Rocksport Advisory Group" and are looking for a BCA rep to attend. GM plus the CNCC Conservation and Access Officer are to attend.

10. Training Officer

- a. Report tabled.
- b. Porth Y Ogof revisions currently with Tom Peacock and CCC
- c. Karen Slatcher is currently looking at the training website with a view to rewriting it

11. Equipment Officer

- a. Report tabled.
- b. Record sorry at news of Stu's death in a caving accident over Christmas. MD to write letter of condolence to Stu's family

12. Editor

- a. Current Newsletter editor has resigned and Mike Clayton has volunteered to take over. Next newsletter will now be published shortly after the AGM.
- b. An up to date copy of the Handbook is available online. Comments are sought. Publication will be shortly after the AGM

13. Publications & Information Officer

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- a. Web Services. There have been problems with the current host so we will be looking at migrating to a new ISP host. CRO websites are currently charged for at cost. Proposal to provide hosting (Domain and basic only) for free. Policy not to post links to non BCA sites on website affirmed.
 - b. Publications. Radon booklet and Training publications progressing. These will be published online and also distributed at cost. Printed copies will be produced to pass to copyright libraries. There is currently a stock of ~300 old Radon booklets. These will be scrapped when new ones become available. JP to pass these to Karen via GM.
 - c. Request from commercial organisation for list of member clubs for marketing purposes refused but space in handbook is to be offered instead. Policy will be to take adverts at profit price but not release database
- 14. Legal & Insurance Officer**
- a. Child protection leaflet. Covering letter from BCA with signatures of Regional representatives. DJ to send letter to GJ ready to send out after AGM. Council discussed whether the policy should go back to an AGM but concurred that this meeting could agree the changes proposed. If CPSU failed to respond with comments an document then remove 8.02 & 8.03

OTHER REPORTS

- 15. Membership Secretary**
- a. Report circulated.
 - b. Some DIM's have not received renewal notices even though these were sent out recently.
 - c. Issue of whether an individual (CIM) remains a member of BCA if their Club membership is revoked on disciplinary grounds. DJ to contact Linda Wilson for advice.
 - d. BCA requires a procedure drafting to deal with complaints against BCA
 - e.
- 16. Insurance Manager** not present, no report
- a. Any requests by landowners etc. (e.g. forestry Commission) for liability insurance cover in excess of the £2M should be resisted. .
- 17. Convenor, Radon Working Party** no report.
- 18. National Cave Registry Co-Ordinator** Cwmbran cave registry has been converted to an online version and is undergoing testing.
- 19. International Representative** no report.
- 20. Youth & Development Officer**
- a. BCA will again have a stand at the Outdoor show. This will take place 13 – 16th March. The artificial cave will again be on loan from YHA. GM to look at possibility of arranging storage for this should the YHA wish to dispose of it. GM to investigate whether free caving trips offered by commercial organizations can be spread throughout the year.
 - b. Details of commercial (BCA member) organizations offering caving trips could be posted on "TryCaving" website.
 - c. CJ will be focusing on a "Try Caving" weekend, possibly after the August bank holiday.
- 21. Any Other Business**
- a. Request received by BM to support lobbying for a change in legislation for the use of personal rescue beacons in the UK. Executive given authority to respond.
- 22. Date of next meeting**
- The next Council meeting will follow the AGM on 5th April 2008 at Alvechurch Church Hall, Alvechurch.