

# BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION



The meeting of the BCA National Council was held at  
3:12pm on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at Alvechurch Church Hall, Alvechurch

## Present

Andy Eavis (AE)	BCA Chairman / BCA UIS Rep
Dave Cooke (DC)	BCA Treasurer / Cave Registry Sec
Damian Weare (DW)	BCA Secretary / Handbook Editor
Bob Mehew (BM)	BCA Equipment Officer / Rope Test Officer
Elsie Little (EL)	BCA Conservation & Access Officer
David Judson (DJu)	BCA Legal & Insurance Officer
Les Williams (LW)	BCA Publications & Information Officer / BCA Webmaster
Glenn Jones (GJ)	CNCC Representative / BCA Membership Administrator
Jenny Potts (JP)	DCA Representative / BCA Publication Sales
David Jean (DJ)	DCUC Representative
Stephan Natynczuk (SN)	ACI Representative
Chris Jewell (CJ)	BCA Youth Development Officer / CHECC Representative
Boyd Potts (BP)	Club Representative: Orpheus Caving Club
Bernie Woodley (BW)	Club Representative: South Wales Caving Club
Charles Milton (CM)	Club Representative: Combined Services Caving Association
Emma Porter (EP)	Individual Member Representative / BCRC Representative
Mick Day (MD)	Individual Member Representative
Clark Friend (CF)	Radon Working Party Chairman
Mike Clayton (MC)	BCA Newsletter Editor
Nick Williams (NW)	BCA Insurance Manager
Idris Williams (IW)	Association of Scout Caving Teams Representative

The meeting commenced at 3:12pm.

## 1. Chairman's Welcome

AE welcomed members to this Council Meeting and expressed his thanks to MD for all his hard work during his time as Chairman.

## 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Graham Mollard, Ged Campion, Steve Holding, Alan Finch and Mike McCombe.

## 3. Minutes of the last Council Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (previously circulated)

DC noted that in item 8(g) re web services, the word "not" should be removed so the sentence reads "but this is to include Regional Councils".

GJ pointed out that the word "paperwork" in item 15(a) should specifically read "application form".

The minutes were signed as a correct record.

## 4. Matters Arising for the Minutes of the last Council Meeting

No matters arising.

## 5. Appointment of non-elected positions:

The following appointments of non-elected positions were agreed:

- a. Insurance Manager – NW
- b. Radon Working Party Convenor – CF
- c. Youth & Development – CJ
- d. Newsletter Editor – MC
- e. Handbook Editor – DW
- f. International Representative – AE
- g. FSE Representative – GC

- h. Rope-Test Officer – BM
- i. Publications Sales – JP
- j. Cave Registry Co-ordinator - DC

## **6. Dates for BCA Council Meetings for 2009-2010**

The dates of 6 June 2009, 3 October 2009, 9 January 2010 and 27 March 2010 had been suggested for future Council Meetings. Due to outstanding commitments, it was agreed that these would be amended to 20 June 2009, 3 October 2009, 9 January 2010 and 20 March 2010 subject to the availability of Baptist Church Hall, Alvechurch. **Action:** JP to check this availability.

## **7. Direct-Debit Facility for Membership Payment (G Jones)**

GJ reported that he had received negative feedback about the current membership payment facilities. GJ wanted to raise the issue of whether a direct debit payment facility should be made available to members. **Action:** DC to investigate payment options and report back to the next Council meeting.

## **8. Club Membership, Insurance & BCA's Equity Policy (N Williams & G Jones)**

GJ explained to Council that a formal complaint had been received about a club that had excluded one of its members from caving on the basis that their medical condition would exclude them from being covered by BCA insurance. This matter was discussed in depth and NW advised that the BCA policy contains no exclusion in relation to medical conditions or disabilities. NW pointed out that it is implicit in all insurance policies that appropriate steps must be taken to minimise the risk of claims and this means that each member must take the appropriate steps to ensure the safety of themselves and others and this may mean going beyond what is normally expected, however, BCA is not qualified to identify what these steps are. In terms of an individual with a medical condition or disability caving, it was agreed that if they could find a group of people who are willing to take the measures necessary to enable them to cave with them safely then they are free to go caving as the individual and group choose, but an individual cannot reasonably expect that any particular individual or club should implement those measures as a matter of course and without a full knowledge of the condition.

Proposal: GJ writes to the individual and club setting out Council's position as discussed above. Prop: DW, Sec: CF.

## **9. Any Other Business**

**a. BCA/DCA stand at Cliffhanger:** This outdoor event will be held on 11-12 July 2009. JP requested support with funding, specifically the transportation of Speleo-Olympics. Agreed that £600 had been allocated for this out of the Youth & Development budget at the last meeting.

**b. Proposed changes to the BCA Constitution:** Any proposed changes to the constitution need to be in place by October 2009, so that the agenda can be agreed for circulation in January 2010.

Proposal: That any proposed changes to the constitution should be passed to DW by the end of May 2009 in anticipation of the June Council meeting, where a sub-committee can be formed to prepare any amendments to the constitution for delivery to the following meeting. Prop: AE, Sec: DC.

**c. Use of BCA logo by Association of Scout Caving Teams:** Agreed.

**d. BCA stand at Hidden Earth 2009:** LW pointed out that BCA will require a stand at Hidden Earth, 25-27 September 2009, Churchill School, Mendip.

**e. British Caving Library:** The decision re funding of the British Caving Library by BCA was agreed to be postponed until the next Council meeting.

**Action:** DW to report in Newsletter that received a proposal from BCRA and invited to help fund the British Caving Library. No decisions have been yet and BCA is seeking feedback from the membership. DW is to draft appropriate wording and seek approval from the Executive.

## **10. Date, Time & Place of next meeting**

The next Council Meeting will be held on Saturday 20 June 2009 at 10.30am at Alvechurch Church Hall, Alvechurch, subject to the availability of the Hall.

*Meeting ended: 4.10pm*