



**Minutes of BCA Council Meeting held on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2011  
at Alvechurch Church Hall, Alvechurch**

**Present:**

Andy Eavis (AE)	BCA Chairman / BCA UIS Rep.
David Cooke (DC)	BCA Treasurer / Cave Registry Sec / British Caving Library Rep.
Damian Weare (DW)	BCA Secretary / Handbook Editor
David Judson (DJu)	BCA Legal & Insurance Officer
Elsie Little (EL)	BCA Conservation & Access Officer
Les Williams (LW)	BCA Publications & Information Officer / BCA Webmaster
Nick Williams (NW)	BCA Insurance Manager / Equipment & Techniques Officer
Glenn Jones (GJ)	BCA Membership Administrator / CNCC Rep.
Jenny Potts (JP)	BCA Publication Sales / DCA Rep.
James Collings (JC)	BCA Youth & Development Officer
Chris Jewell (CJ)	BCA Media-Liaison Officer ( <i>arrived at 10:50</i> )
Mike Clayton (MC)	BCA Newsletter Editor
Bob Mehew (BM)	BCA Rope-Test Officer ( <i>arrived at 14:00</i> )
David Jean (DJe)	DCUC Rep.
Idris Williams (IW)	ASCT Rep.
Steve Holding (SH)	NAMHO Rep.
Alan Finch (AF)	WPCST Rep.
Dave Checkley (DC)	BCRA Rep.
Boyd Potts (BP)	Club Rep.: Orpheus CC
Bernie Woodley (BW)	Club Rep.: S. Wales CC
Mick Day (MD)	Individual Member Rep.
Emma Porter (EP)	Individual Member Rep.
Faye Litherland (FL)	Individual Member Rep.

The meeting commenced at 10:35am.

**1. Chairman's Welcome**

AE welcomed members to this Council Meeting.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from: Graham Mollard, Charlie Milton, Stephan Natynczuk, Mike McCombe, Clark Friend, Ged Champion, Owen Clarke and Mark Williams. Chris Jewell and Bob Mehew apologised that they would be late.

**3. Applications for Club Membership**

GJ reported applications with correct paperwork and payment from "Northern Friends Incorporated CC", the "Old Matey's CC" and "Cardiff Uni CC". In addition "The Golden Valley CC" has supplied the correct paperwork, but no payment as yet. GJ suggested we should accept them today on the provision that we receive payment.

Proposal: *to accept the "Northern Friends Incorporated CC", "Old Matey's CC" and "Cardiff University CC" as Member Clubs and to accept "The Golden Valley CC" subject to receiving the correct payment.*

Prop: GJ, Sec: JP *agreed unanimously*

**4. Minutes of the last Council Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2011 (previously circulated)**

DC: In item 22a the figures for the amended proposal votes are the wrong way around. There were 3 votes for and 18 against.

AE: In AOB the word "covers" should be removed from the end of MD's bit, so that it reads "the current rate does that at the moment".

Proposal: *to accept the amended Minutes from 15<sup>th</sup> January 2011 as a true record*

Prop: JP, Sec: LW *agreed unanimously*

**5. Matters Arising for the Minutes of the last Council Meeting**

## **The Artificial Cave**

NW: NW referred to his written report on the Artificial Cave. Do we feel that £250 is an appropriate sum as a deposit? It does not seem to have been presented a problem so far for users and is intended to be an amount that will make people think, rather than an amount that will cover all the possible damage they could cause.

LW: Is it insured at the moment?

NW: Is in negotiation at present with the insurers. What we can't have is cover for accidents while on the road.

DJ: Is there an agreement that people sign before taking the cave?

NW: Not at present, but we could go down that road.

EL: This could be avoided by putting in the agreement document that "receipt of cheque will be taken as acceptance of the agreement."

LW: We need to look at some sharp edges on the exterior of the cave.

**Action 62: NW to look at, and repair if possible, the sharp edges on the Artificial Cave.**

NW: We got a really good deal on the trailer. Would like to use some of the unspent budget to buy crash mats and do some sign writing. Are we happy to use the money in this way?

LW: Sign writing is a useful security measure.

NW: Would like to make Council aware that he is also planning on charging at cost for some labour time by one of his company's engineers who did some work on the trailer electrics.

NW: Officially the contact for the Artificial Cave is Katie Dent, rather than Nick himself.

**Action 63: LW to set up an e-mail address for enquiries about the Artificial Cave.**

*(CJ arrived at this point)*

NW: The cost of the trailer, work to date and some tools needed to assemble it is likely to be around £3k. Once we have done the sign writing and bought the crash mats, this is likely to be fairly close to the £4k budget agreed by the January Council Meeting. Is this acceptable?

AE: The feeling of the meeting is that this is acceptable.

## **Timing of Draft Minutes**

GJ: Referring to item 6, GJ reported that CNCC are increasingly frustrated by the late delivery of the previous meeting's Minutes. This makes it very hard for CNCC and other organisations to work effectively.

AE: Perhaps a compromise is that either there is a deadline of a month for BCA Executive to proof-read them before they are published anyway, or that someone else takes on the role of checking Minutes in the absence of some of Executive.

LW: Could they be published initially only for Council to view with a period for comments before they are officially published?

AE: Sometimes there are issues which could affect Council Members, such as Council's desire to nominate Mick Day as Honorary President. It would have been wrong for Mick to read this without having been asked first if he was willing to stand.

DW: The current situation does potentially slow down decision making across the whole of British Caving. Equally, though, we don't want a situation where something inappropriate slips through the net. It is a good idea to have other people checking them before they are officially published.

AE: Perhaps we should have a situation where Draft Minutes are published within one month of the meeting taking place and if Executive have not managed to approve them within that timescale, the Secretary should ask another Council member (or members) to check them before publishing.

**Action 64: DW to prepare a policy on publishing Minutes to be presented to the June Meeting and to be subsequently added to the Manual of Operations.**

AE: DW and AE have had a meeting to discuss some possible changes to the way we operate, and a discussion document will be produced in time for the AGM.

**Action 65: DW and AE to produce a discussion document on potential changes to the way BCA operates in time for the June AGM.**

## **Honorary President**

AE: Pleased to report that Mick Day is prepared to accept our Nomination.

GJ: What does this allow?

DW: Free membership and the right to attend Council Meetings as an ex-officio Officer.

GJ: What about BCRA membership?

DCh: This is something for BCRA to discuss.

**Action 66:** DCh to discuss at BCRA Council what to do about BCRA membership for a BCA Honorary President.

### Review of Action Log

- Action Log 6: Ongoing
- Action Log 20: Ongoing LW: Will try to tie in with P&I Meeting.
- Action Log 24: Ongoing
- Action Log 29: CJ decided not to worry about this, because nobody has ever asked for it. Can be removed.
- Action Log 34: Complete (but website no longer exists).
- Action Log 36: Ongoing – see Secretary’s Report
- Action Log 50: EL has intentionally not done this, as the information has not altered from that put out in *Descent*. May be able to do something in the near future. Can be removed.
- Action Log 52: Various: Still awaiting feedback. CSCC’s view was that there wasn’t much we could do at the moment. JP: DCA’s view was that we need more information. EP: BCRC would rather deal with it as it arises. DCh: BCRA will deal with it at the next meeting. LW: the expert witnesses would not be working for BCA anyway. DJu: Might there be another scenario where we felt we actually wanted to assist someone who was being unfairly challenged in court? SH: The point was that we could have a list of experts who could be passed on to other people by GM. AE: We should have something on the website offering to provide suitable experts. DW: This is a very different stance from what GM was suggesting. CJ: This could be wider than just court-ready experts, but as Media-Liaison Officer, CJ also has enquiries about contacts for various aspects of caving. Currently his replies rely on his knowledge to do this. It would make sense for other people to help him by putting together a list of potentially useful people AE: This is a good idea.

**Action 67:** CJ to work towards building a list of people with useful experience in a variety of caving situations.

- Action Log 54: Following an exchange of e-mails, NW now needs to set a date.
- Action Log 56: Ongoing
- Action Log 57: Ongoing following meeting with AE’s lawyer and IMG people. The main attraction with IMG is that they could sort out Direct Debits for BCA. There will be a report on all this at the AGM.
- Action Log 58: Not done yet.
- Action Log 59: Underway – see C&A report
- Action Log 60: To be advertised in the next newsletter. Can be removed.
- Action Log 61: In the end this was not actually necessary.

### Officers’ Reports

#### 6. Chairman’s Report *(written report previously circulated)*

Proposal: *to accept the Chairman’s Report*

Prop: DW Sec: JP *agreed unanimously*

#### 7. Secretary’s Report *(written report previously circulated)*

##### Use of BCA Logo

LW: Are we endorsing something? Should a member club be able to put the logo on their letter-headed paper?

CJ: Putting the logo is the same as saying you are a member?

MD: Nobody would expect to use an organisation’s logo just because they are a member.

IW: Asked for permission a while ago and uses BCA’s logo on his letter heads.

CJ: Could we have a version of the logo with “member” underneath which Member Clubs would be allowed to use?

**Action 68:** CJ to create a “member” version of the BCA logo and DW to put something to this effect on the website and in the Newsletter.

Proposal: *to accept the Secretary’s Report*

Prop: LW Sec: FL *agreed unanimously*

#### 8. Treasurer’s Report *(written report previously circulated)*

DC: Wonders how GM’s suggestion in his report would improve the payment situation for T/As? The current process is that GM checks with Mary Wilde (MWi) that the cheques are appropriate. He then writes the cheques and forwards them to DC for him to sign. DC has put forward some proposals to MWi involving BACS payments to speed up this process. This change was initially resisted, but is now in progress.

NW: This should be something for DC and GM to discuss outside of the meeting.

**Action 69:** DC & GM to discuss the perceived problems with T/A payments.

Proposal: *to accept the Treasurer's Report*

Prop: DW Sec: BP *agreed unanimously*

## 9. Conservation & Access Officer's Report

### Mine Pollution

SH: Item 3 was discussed at the NAMHO meeting and those with experience of this seemed to think it was not a major concern.

EL: Feels that it does need to be watched.

### Forestry Commission

EL: A new group has been set up to look at the sale of Forestry Commission land. EL's contacts suggest that this may lead to what the Government originally wanted to do anyway.

LW: The Forestry Commission have always been able to sell of 15% annually anyway.

DJu: Is arranging a meeting to discuss a national Forestry Commission access agreement.

### Paper Pulp

BP: There is currently a problem in Derbyshire with paper pulp that is being spread on some farms. Those who have approved this don't seem to appreciate the difference between a karst area and a sandstone area, for example. There are rules about it, but they are not always being followed. They are also not always considering where they are putting it and it sometimes runs straight through and comes out in Rakes, adits and streams. Peak Cavern has been badly affected. This has all been condoned by the Environment Agency. Natural England is aware of it and there is a meeting in the next few months. DCA is involved.

NW: This could affect Mendip next. The farmers are being paid to take it as a soil improver, but in reality it probably doesn't help and has other possible side effects, some of which are not obvious on the surface. The EA do not really appear to have got this message yet.

JP: It is DCA who have brought the problem to the attention of the Environment Agency.

EL: We have a golden rule that we as BCA only get involved if requested by the Region. At present DCA seem to have this under control.

DJu: Maybe an eminent scientist's support might be helpful.

**Action 69:** EL to liaise with Dave Webb (DCA C&A Officer) about sending an official letter to the appropriate body.

Proposal: *to accept the Conservation & Access Officer's Report*

Prop: DC Sec: DCh *agreed unanimously*

## 10. Equipment & Techniques Officer's Report *(written report previously circulated)*

NW: Is the response presented in Appendix 3 an official CSCC Position?

DC: It has been agreed by the CSCC Officers as well as it is possible to do within the time scales.

NW: Does not view this as a particularly helpful way of dealing with things. What has happened is that people have found themselves pushed into various corners and it would seem appropriate that dust is allowed to settle. The best thing Council can do is disband the E&T Committee, as the potential ramifications of this issue for BCA as an organisation, far outweigh the impact of disbanding the E&T Committee.

CJ: It seems that CSCC don't agree with the decisions of the E&T Committee and have decided to bring this to Council. This does not set a very good precedent for BCA.

DC: We are trying to help the process forward.

NW: Doesn't feel this document helps move the position forward.

GJ: Feels the issue with the IPTD is history. We have come to an agreement to disagree and CSCC have decided to take themselves out of the Anchor Scheme. As a result E&T felt it was appropriate to request for the return of the equipment. The IPTD document is not relevant here. However it is appropriate that Council endorse the democratic position taken by one of its committees.

CJ: What will happen if Council decides something today? Will CSCC agree with it?

FL: It is our intention to do so.

DC: Does have concerns about the democratic way that E&T has reached decisions.

AE: Became involved in this whole issue a year ago and met some very intransigent people at the time. Feels most of this is technical detail that shouldn't be brought here.

DC: The issues being debated here are BCA's copyright and also BCA's equipment. The business has been brought to Council by E&T, rather than CSCC.

NW: E&T reports to Council and if a Member Body has a disagreement with a decision made, it is proper to bring it to this meeting.

DC: The former Committee was not fit for purpose, but there are serious concerns about disbanding it.

GJ: In what way was it “not fit for purpose”?

DC: CSCC feel that the Committee has co-opted people to stack the votes, so that CNCC and DCA in effect have 2 votes each.

NW: The Committee has followed standard voting procedures for a BCA Standing Committee.

DC: Originally a document was produced by the Committee that BCA Council couldn’t view. This is wrong.

FL: Feels there is actually a lot of common ground and there is potential to move forward. FL would be very sad to see the Committee disbanded. FL has faith in the technical competence of the Committee and believes there are ways around the current difficulties. There have been technical suggestions that have been made and the ownership of the document is making this difficult. If people can step back a bit, and look at CSCC’s additional information, there is a way forward.

GJ: The document produced by CSCC in response to the IPTD had something like 10 areas of concern. Only 2 of these were not altered following discussion at the E&T committee. These were SRT competence and publishing. There are compromises available that may get around some of this. However if you are working above a hole, E&T believe you need certain skills to make sure you are safe while doing this.

IW: There is obvious middle ground here and arbitration seems the sensible way forward.

AE: To some extent we thought we were doing this when NW took on the role of E&T Convenor.

NW: People have been put into corners and this has been very unhelpful. NW could have taken a stronger line with the various parties, but tried to delay the process as long as possible to provide time. Regrettably CSCC chose to put forward a response today. Likewise, on the other side of the debate, the copyright issue has been brought up. NW feels his position is now untenable, as none of this was put past him first.

FL: Was being constantly asked to respond from many areas, and felt under considerable pressure to do so.

JP: We need to separate two issues here, one of which is copyright and one of which is equipment. The copyright issue does not need dealing with now. However CSCC have removed themselves from the national anchor-placement system all together. Therefore it would seem reasonable to expect them to return the equipment.

IW: We are missing the important part here. We used to have a national anchor scheme and we are discussing the side issues here.

JC: Could we have a standard set of instructions with regional variations if appropriate as appendices?

AE: The two real issues here are tiny.

JC: From the point of view of copyright I have no ownership of a document I produce at work.

LW: Actually the authors want to transfer the rights to use the document, but all control of the document rests with the authors. This is not a transfer of copyright at all.

GJ: If the publication were made available on the BCA website, but not in a printable format, would this help things?

LW: We cannot speak for our members.

DC: A rep is generally empowered to agree to things unless instructed differently by the Committee they represent. They are also allowed to say that they don’t feel able to express a view.

LW: At the moment our members haven’t discussed the document contents because they haven’t been allowed to see it. Thinks the problem might be cleared in this way though.

CJ: People need the authority to make a decision if arbitration is going to work. Otherwise it doesn’t. Suggests CSCC and E&T empower someone to make a decision on their part.

MC: Was it the intention of the wording about being “competent in SRT”, actually that people should be competent to protect themselves while installing anchors. If this is the case, perhaps the wording should be that there should be “suitable fall protection”?

DC: If you can deliver the document being on the website, CSCC would probably be willing to accept this resolves one of the main issues.

NW: There is a simple understanding to the SRT issue, and this is to confine the word “SRT” to SRT placements. There is other business, such as fixed aids, for E&T to deal with too. The non-SRT issue could be dealt with then.

AE: Should we now have an E&T Special Committee to try to take this further?

NW: Are people willing to accept me as arbitrator? Do CSCC need to go back and take everything to their members?

FL: Would you be willing to have technical discussions?

NW: Yes, but we would also need to have individual discussions first.

SH: People are not in a position to make decisions here today. These need to be dealt with later, but the aim must be for agreement.

GJ: Currently CSCC don't support E&T. We need an endorsement of E&T's authority. This can be with timescales or something else as appropriate.

FL: Will happily withdraw CSCC's proposal if NW is willing to withdraw his.

BP: Could we take the first line of NW's proposal?

NW: Would like to remove the word "forthwith" and replace it with "... if requested by the arbitrator."

Proposal 1: "**Council authorises the E&T Convenor to act as an arbitrator in the concerns of the IPTD, provided the document is made available on the web in a non-printable format at the earliest convenience.**"

Prop: LW Sec: IW *agreed unanimously*

Proposal 2: "**Council affirms the authority of the Equipment and Techniques Committee to retain control of equipment and supplies which are held by it in the name of the Association. Council requests CSCC to respect the content of the letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010 from the E+T Convenor, and return the equipment if requested by the arbitrator.**"

Prop: NW Sec: FL *agreed unanimously*

**Action 70: NW to oversee the implementation of resolutions relating to the E&T Committee.**

(BM arrived at this point)

**a. Rope-Test Officer's Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

BM: We are not talking here about thinner ropes because they don't have the staying power.

MC: 13mm rope is likely to be available at lower cost than 12.5mm because it is the industry standard for tree surgeons.

SH: It is probably more common practice to leave ropes in mines, rather than in caves. Would it be acceptable for NAMHO to nominate placements too?

BM: Yes.

DW: Is it the intention for these ropes to be used simply as handlines or also as SRT ropes? If the latter, then 12.5mm or 13mm will be too thick, particularly once a bit worn and frayed. If being used as a handline only, then fall factors are much less of a concern.

JP: DCA has a policy of deliberately not installing fixed ropes on any of its bolts. Various people remove fixed ropes as a matter of course. If we have a policy that somebody can acquire a legitimate fixed rope, how do we allow other cavers to recognise our ropes against someone else's?

LW: BM's request is simply for us to approve funding to assess the suitability of ropes in situations where ropes are currently placed.

AE: The difference between ropes and bolts is that ropes degrade by being in-situ and, in some cases, this deterioration is quite quick. There is an example in Mulu.

BM: Should we sanction the use of fixed ropes at all?

JP: The difference is that bolts are regularly inspected and can, therefore, be backed by our insurance scheme.

BM: We would be in the same position as if one of our anchors broke. We would need to lay down the same style of inspection regimes as for ropes. There is now evidence to suggest that ropes can be left for an appropriate period of time underground and still remain strong enough.

BM: Wanted this discussing at Council because lots of other people have an important view on this, such as Conservation.

LW: Sees no problem with approving the funding for research, but we might need to look more carefully at extending this in the future.

Proposal: **to grant BM a budget of £500 for his fixed-aids project.**

Prop: LW Sec: GJ *agreed unanimously*

Proposal: **to accept Equipment & Techniques Officer's Report**

Prop: GJ Sec: BP *agreed unanimously*

**11. Training Officer's Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

DC: Should we take GM's comment about payments as a formal proposal?

DW: GM should probably be here to explain his views before we consider it further. It should also be noted that what DW have given as GM's report was actually prefaced with "Nothing to report as everything is ongoing, but ..." It is possible he did not intend this to be reported.

EL: Concerned that it implies the Treasurer doesn't need to know what's going on.

CJ: There is a difference between being aware of what is going on and who is in control of the purse strings.

BM: Does the Treasurer not receive the bank statements? Is this not a line of control?

DC: As said earlier, this has been reviewed with GM and MW and there is a plan in place.

Proposal: *to accept Training Officer's Report*  
Prop: DW Sec: LW *agreed with 2 votes against*

**12. Publications & Information Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

LW: We have almost run out of several batches of leaflets. JP is being asked for more to replace those sent out to those who register for the LCMLA Scheme.

IW: There is a lot of overlap between the "SYWTGC" and the "Try Caving" leaflets. They could potentially be combined.

JC: They need updating before printing.

BM: It would be prudent to obtain the permission of the photograph copyright holders once more before a reprint takes place.

Proposal: *to allocate a budget of £1k to be spent on updating leaflets in whatever way LW sees fit.*

Prop: JP Sec: FL *agreed unanimously*

**a. Webmaster's Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

DC: Is considering advertising the unpaid role. However, it is important to select the right person as there is considerable trust required as well as skill and experience.

**b. Newsletter Editor's Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

MC: The deadline for content for the next Newsletter is 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

LW: Do you liaise with Training?

DW: GM agreed at the last meeting to give some information.

**c. Handbook Editor's Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

DW: Deadlines for major amendments to last year's entries is the end of April. Minor amendments will be acceptable until the end of May. This will all be sent to individual contributors in the coming weeks.

Proposal: *to accept Publications & Information Officer's Report*

Prop: DCh Sec: JP *agreed unanimously*

**13. Legal & Insurance Report**

DJu: Nothing to report that hasn't already been mentioned elsewhere.

**Other Reports**

**14. Youth & Development**

JC: The recent event at The Outdoor Show was very successful. JC now has several hundred names of potentially interested people to pass on to clubs. Organisationally attending The Show is a real pain in the neck because it requires 2 days off work while the event is happening, as well as quite a lot of effort prior to the event itself. JC is unlikely to organise it again because of this.

LW: It was less busy than previously, but the whole event is a much smaller affair now than it was. As a "free pitch" it costs a fortune. They charge us to hang a rope in the ceiling, for electricity etc.

JC: We are always going to be stung by the additional costs because they are paid to the NEC rather than the operating company. The total costs for this year are likely to be nearer £1k, the majority of which comes from volunteers' fuel. The costs could not really be reduced in the future. If it is something we feel we want to do again, we really need to do it every year, so we can build up our stand more effectively. The appropriate time to make the decision about attending next year's Show is the AGM, as all the paperwork needs to be completed by the end of September.

BM: Are we going again?

JC: It would be a good idea, but it will need someone else to deal with Thursday and Friday.

JP: BCA does have stands etc, but nobody asked JP for them.

Proposal: *to accept Youth & Development Officer's Report*

Prop: DW Sec: LW *agreed unanimously*

**15. Membership Administrator's Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

GJ: The question GJ posed in his report has already been answered.

CJ: We need to convince more people to take up CIM+. If all Council members put pressure on their respective clubs to offer it, this would make a difference.

Proposal: *to accept Membership Administrator's Report*

Prop: NW Sec: JP *agreed unanimously*

**16. Insurance Manager's Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

NW: The decision on under 18s has already been taken. DJu is now aware of this.

Proposal: ***to accept Insurance Manager's Report***

Prop: JP Sec: GJ *agreed unanimously*

**17. Radon Working Party Convenor's Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

LW: Propose we take the issue of fonts and discuss it at the next P&I meeting.

DJu: There are a large number of very minor things wrong with the radon document as it stands.

**Action 71:** DJu plus other interested parties to put comments on the draft Radon booklet in writing to CF.

Proposal: ***to accept Radon Working Party Convenor's Report***

Prop: LW Sec: FL *agreed unanimously*

**18. Cave Registry Co-ordinator's Report**

DC: Has written to all RCCs to nominate a co-ordinator and then everything else can flow from this. Has heard back from CCC, but has not had a reply from the other RCCs as yet. DC is intending to split the country into unique areas, but is aware this could be quite complex!

BM: This could present real problems in the future if we are not careful.

SH: Are you also looking to record mine sites? NAMHO does not have a collection of all mine sites, so it would be a question of going to the individual mining clubs.

JP: There are also issues in Derbyshire with mines.

BM: We need to extend this beyond the RCCs to everyone with an interest, such as WPCST and NAMHO.

DC: This is the plan once the country has been split into unique areas.

**Action 72:** RCCs to provide the name of a Cave Registry co-ordinator to DC.

Proposal: ***to accept Cave Registry Co-ordinator's Report***

Prop: AE Sec: DW *agreed unanimously*

**19. International Representative's Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

AE: It is worth having a look at the UIS website for dates of various events around the world.

**a. FSE Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

LW: The deadline for the leaflet on the Euro-Speleo event is July.

Proposal: ***to accept International Representatives' Reports***

Prop: DW Sec: LW *agreed unanimously*

**20. Media-Liaison Officer's Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

CJ: Fields an average of one phone call per week, the majority of which are just random enquiries.

Proposal: ***to accept Media-Liaison Officer's Report***

Prop: DC Sec: BM *agreed unanimously*

**21. British Caving Library Report** (*written report previously circulated*)

JP: Exchanges have to go through BCRA because BCRA effectively fund it, because they send out copies of *Speleology* and *C&KS*.

LW: BCA pay for *Speleology* of course. How do we check on the value to UK cavers of these foreign exchanges?

JP: When Roy Paulson was still Librarian, he crossed off a number from the list because he wasn't receiving items. Sometimes organisations save things up and send them as a batch, so some were incorrectly removed. Trevor Faulkner has gone all the way through the list, checked the value to the BCL and checked whether the exchange should be just *C&KS* or *C&KS* plus *Speleology* or just *Speleology*. We are now checking the correct addresses, and this is quite problematic. The likely cost to BCRA is probably around £1,300 per annum. Some of this will be BCA's cost. Some of the journals from abroad were really no more than a club newsletter and sometimes the balance was unfair. In some cases journals come with an English summary, whereas others come in a foreign language only. These are obviously of less value to us than those with an English summary.

BM: Is it possible to have a list of criteria?

**Action 73:** JP to ask Trevor Faulkner for some criteria on how the value of journal exchanges to UK cavers has been assessed.

GJ: Did you liaise with David Gibson when you did this? He has done some work on this before.

JP: Yes.

FL: What is the procedure for establishing an exchange?

JP: Simply contact the BCL.

Proposal: *to accept British Caving Library Report*

Prop: BM Sec: LW *agreed unanimously*

## 22. Any Other Business

DCh: The next BCRA Field Meeting is on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> May. It is a series of talks on the geology, development, history and archaeology of the EaseGill system and all are welcome.

## 23. Date, Time & Place of next meeting

The next Council Meeting will be held on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at The Baptist Church Hall, Alvechurch, to follow on immediately from the BCA Annual General Meeting.

*The meeting closed at 15:30*

## Action Log – March 2010

No.	Action by ...	Details of Action
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6	DC & AE	Update Bank Mandates.
20	LW, NW & AE	To set up sub committee to consider expenditure on <i>Speleology</i> .
36	DW	To put together a Manual of Operations
52	Various	RCCs and anybody else with a potential interest to ask for suitable people to be on the list of “Court-Ready Technical Experts”.
54	NW & DJu	To liaise with SUI with a view to helping them streamline their insurance situation.
56	LW	To put together a professional-looking flyer in advance of the next FSE Bureau meeting.

### Jan 2011 Meeting

57	NW	To put together a discussion document following discussions with AE.
58	GM & NW	To liaise with the BMC about protecting Victoria Cave.
59	EL & DJu	To take forward the idea about approaching the Forestry Commission about a national access agreement.

### March 2011 Meeting

62	NW	To look at, and repair if possible, the sharp edges on the Artificial Cave.
63	LW	To set up an e-mail address for enquiries about the Artificial Cave.
64	DW	To prepare a policy on publishing Minutes to be presented to the June Meeting and to be subsequently added to the Manual of Operations.
65	AE & DW	To produce a discussion document on potential changes to the way BCA operates in time for the June AGM.
66	DCh	To discuss at BCRA Council what to do about BCRA membership for a BCA Honorary President.
67	CJ	To work towards building a list of people with useful experience in a variety of caving situations.
68	CJ & DW	CJ to create a “member” version of the BCA logo and DW to put something to this effect on the website and in the Newsletter.
69	EL	To liaise with Dave Webb (DCA C&A Officer) about sending an official letter to the appropriate body.
70	NW	To oversee the implementation of resolutions relating to the E&T Committee.
71	DJu	To put comments on the draft Radon booklet in writing to CF.
72	RCCs	To provide the name of a Cave Registry co-ordinator to DC
73	JP	To ask Trevor Faulkner for some criteria on how the value of journal exchanges to UK cavers has been assessed.



# BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION

Council Meeting, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2011

## OFFICERS' REPORTS

### Item 6: Chairman's Report

I must start my report by saying that most of the time since the last Council Meeting, I have been on an expedition to Mulu. So haven't done very much BCA work. However, before I left Nick Williams and I had a meeting with a lawyer who is expert in Charity Law and I hope we will have a report on this for the next Council Meeting which is our AGM.

Since I have been back I have attended one BCRA Council meeting, which was a fairly constructive event at Glutton Bridge. Prior to this Council meeting, I will meet with Damian who will bring me up to date with everything I have missed while I have been off caving.

I should like to conclude by thanking everybody for their efforts over the last few months. I propose to discuss some ideas on varying Council meetings after the AGM to try and make them more enjoyable and constructive.

*Andy Eavis, March 2011*

### Item 7: Secretary's Report

**Annual General Meeting:** The deadline for nominations for the posts of Treasurer, E&T Officer, P&I Officer, as well as 2 Club and 2 Individual Member Reps is today. It is also the deadline for Items for the Agenda. In the next couple of weeks I will be sending out an Agenda to our membership to have arrived before 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**Manual of Operations:** Work on this has been much slower than I had hoped - I have simply been too busy. However, I fully intend to give the Manual of Operations all the time it deserves once I have completed the BCA Handbook following the June AGM.

**Use of BCA Logo:** I have received a request from Charlie Milton to use the BCA logo on the CSCA's joining form. This is because the CSCA are partly sponsoring their members to complete their LCMLA qualification. Personally I have no objection. Does anyone else?

*Damian Weare, March 2011*

### Item 8: Treasurer's Report

Along with the Training Officer I am also concerned about the length of time it takes to pay the Trainer/Assessors. I have been pressing the Training Officer for some time to make payment by BACS. This was initially resisted but now seems to be agreed; although to date I have not received any bank details. I have also proposed a modified payment procedure that takes advantage of BACS to speed up the system. The Training Administrator is currently implementing the new system.

Concerning cavers under the age of 18, the 2008 AGM unanimously passed this resolution. "Full-Time Student membership applies to all Under 18s and all those who are full-time students at the point of their membership application". So Council has already addressed the question of reduced rates for under 18s. I would agree with Glenn's understanding in his report.

Otherwise I have nothing to report other than the accounts are in preparation for the AGM in June.

*David Cooke, March 2011*

### Item 9: Conservation & Access Officer's Report

**Forestry Sell Off:** The much-publicised threat to sell off Forestry in England (Wales was not involved at the time) has been averted by the public outcry that it caused. The main threat to our access would have been in the Forest of Dean where our local reps have built up such a liberal access regime.

The sale consultation document has been withdrawn for the present and the recognition that the so-called 'heritage forests' should be excluded from the operation does give hope for the future. However, I have to say I am unconvinced, maybe by natural mistrust of Government, and feel we must maintain a close watch and liaise with the new body, headed by the Bishop of Liverpool, set up to advise on the future of our forest properties.

With this in mind, a move to arrange for a British national agreement over access has begun. Already there is one with the National Trust for access to their property and it is hoped to make similar formal arrangements with all major landowning bodies in turn. Our Welsh Forestry Commission Land Agent has already indicated he will assist in its formulation as appropriate and the initial meeting with the English officer concerned has already been set up.

**National Nature Reserves:** Another similar threat to access, was the very little publicized move to sell publically owned NNRs or to

hive off the management of them to charities or other organisations. This currently was to take effect in England, not Wales, but I am led to believe this plan has also been dropped for the time being. The response from the Minister implied that there had only been an internal discussion of the possibilities and it had never been meant for public eyes! I feel this is another field we must watch.

**Pollution from Defunct Metalliferous Mines:** It has also come to light that Parliament is addressing the pollution emanating from defunct metalliferous mines and entering surface water courses. The move may end with the responsibility for such mines being vested in the National Coal Authority. So far I have not progressed far with this matter.

**Victoria Cave:** I must report my thanks to David Judson who took on the matter of Victoria Cave, near Settle, which is an extremely important archaeological site and is under threat from human feet and rabbits. The problem is larger than we can really address but moral support for the authorities dealing at the site has been offered and I believe David now intends to liaise with the climbing fraternity about avoiding the site.

*Elsie Little, March 2011*

## **Item 10: Equipment & Techniques Officer's Report**

The Committee held a meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March in Alvechurch at which all of the major Regional Councils were represented. Some useful technical progress on bolt testing (among other topics) was made, but there were some controversial topics which require consideration by Council.

**1. Copyright:** Les Sykes and Bob Dearman have made a declaration of the transfer of their interest in the copyright of the BCA Anchor Replacement Policy (which they wrote). A copy of their statement is in Appendix 1. While I think it should be acknowledged that this is a significant step, in that it is I believe, the first time that copyright has actually been assigned to BCA for anything which is published in its name (a matter which Council may wish to consider in the broader context of all BCA publications at another time) the conditions of the transfer raise some problems in our current circumstances.

If we accept the document on the terms it contains then we have a problem with the fact that significant sections of the Policy, including some of the drawings, have been plagiarised by CSCC for their own document, which has itself been published in circumstances which do not meet the conditions set by the transfer of copyright. Les and Bob may expect us to take action on this point (although it should be noted that they have themselves failed to take action to date). If we refuse to accept the transfer then we may well find ourselves without a policy document.

I am afraid I do not have a solution to offer Council on this matter, other than to suggest that Council should note the transfer document and request that E+T Committee work to resolve the issues which arise from it. Some will see this as a cop-out although I do not agree: I think it puts the discussions back to the forum where there is the best chance of them ultimately being resolved and prevents Council from wasting time on a fruitless discussion which might well result in other unintended consequences.

**2. Equipment currently in the possession of CSCC:** I need to draw Council's attention to the correspondence between the Committee and CSCC (Appendix 2) regarding the return of equipment which was passed to CSCC for their use as part of the anchor replacement programme. The correspondence itself is self-explanatory, although it should be noted that my letter to CSCC was issued on the basis of a properly constituted resolution that the request be made for CSCC to return the equipment.

CSCC's response was presented to the E+T meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March. The Committee found it regrettable that CSCC has failed to recognise the authority of the Committee to retain control of its own equipment. Feelings at the meeting ran sufficiently high that a motion was proposed that "Until CSCC formally agree to participate fully in E+T activities they should withdraw from attending E+T meetings". This motion was hung with three votes in favour and three against and so it was defeated on the basis of my casting vote as Chairman in favour of the status quo. Although the motion was defeated, the strength of feeling which underlies it should not be underestimated and I regret that this matter will remain an issue until both sides can grow out of their current unerring ability to pick a fight while failing to see the wider consequences of their actions.

I am prepared to permit my name to go forward as Convenor of the E+T Committee for the next three-year term, and so will doubtless have to return to these issues on the Committee in due course. However, with regard to the particular issue of the return of the equipment and anchors currently held by CSCC, I am instructed to ask Council to take a decision to resolve this matter.

Council will clearly wish to discuss this before attempting to reach a decision. In order to save time in the meeting, and in the expectation that a vote will be required, I propose the following Resolution:

*"That Council affirms the authority of the Equipment and Techniques Committee to retain control of equipment and supplies which are held by it in the name of the Association. Council requests CSCC to respect the content of the letter dated 21 October 2010 from the E+T Convenor, and return the equipment forthwith".*

*Nick Williams, March 2011*

### **Ropes as Fixed Aids**

Some evidence (see 1 below) is now available to suggest that larger diameter ropes have sufficient strength to be suitable for consideration as being used as an underground fixed aid. In order to expand this evidence, it is proposed that BCA should sponsor the provision of suitable rope for placement underground as fixed aids as part of a programme to collect more evidence to support the use of rope as a fixed aid. This will permit the purchase of an adequate length of rope which can be sub divided into that which goes in

place as the aid plus that which is retained in a safe storage location for subsequent testing in order to provide evidence of the degradation of the rope's strength.

It is proposed that certain conditions apply to this programme, namely:

- a) the rope only be supplied to locations which already have rope installed as a fixed aid in order to avoid the proliferation of fixed aids, in line with E&T Committee's draft Fixed Aids policy (see 2 below).
- b) applications be supported by the Regional Caving Council.
- c) the Rope Test Officer will have a veto (subject to appeal to Council) on each application but otherwise will be dealt with on a first come first served basis.
- d) the length of time the rope will remain in situ and other details will be subject to agreement between the applicant and the Rope Test Officer.
- d) the programme is limited to a cost of around £500 (equivalent to around 200m of 12.5mm SRT rope) in order to keep the number of samples to a manageable size.

Given this proposal cuts across several committees of BCA and also intrudes into the affairs of Regions, Council agreement is sought to the proposal.

## **References:**

### **1 – Avalanche Pot Inlet Rope**

This 11mm rope was purchased around 1982 and used by a club for several years before installing as a fixed rope on the first pitch into Gaping Gill's Avalanche Pot Inlet series in around 1989. It was removed in 2005 and was passed across for testing in 2010. It is understood that the rope was located out of any direct waterfalls but a trickle of water did run down much of the rope. The rope was cut into 11 0.8m sample lengths and drop tested using Fall Factor 1.0 in a wet condition. The average drops survived was 1.8 (minimum 1 maximum 4).

A rope of same size and manufacture has been acquired which was purchased in 1984, lightly used but kept above ground for all of its life. 6 samples of this rope have so far been subject to the same testing process. The average drop survived was 5.5 (minimum 4 maximum 12). (Work remains to be completed on comparing peak forces exhibited by the above ground rope and a new sample but initial indications suggest there has been no change in peak force between the Avalanche Pot Inlet rope, the lightly used old rope and a new sample.)

A piece of rope has also been tested in 2005 of unknown manufacturer, thought to be 11mm which had been retrieved after being placed in Block Hall, Speedwell for an unknown period of time felt sufficiently to warrant its removal. 3 samples were obtained and survived 5.7 drops using an increasing fall factor drop sequence.

### **2 – E&T Fixed Aids draft policy**

The aim of this policy is to improve safety and to provide guidance for those who place fixed aids. It is not the aim of this policy to make progress within a cave or mine easier. The objectives of BCA under this policy, are to enable the provision of fixed aids that are inspected regularly, and where appropriate testing, maintenance or replacement carried out. The number of fixed aids covered should be kept to a minimum, and where possible alternatives should be considered. Where alternative routes are safe and reasonably practical, consideration should be given to the removal of existing fixed aids.

*Bob Mehew, March 2011*

## **a) Rope Test Officer's Report**

I have cleared all 2010 submitted samples (34) bar the ICCC set. This is a program of work covering some 400m of rope involving over 40 samples on set of expedition ropes left in Austrian pot holes over several years.

Work continues on the Avalanche Pot Inlet rope project. I have obtained a similar rope of same manufacturer and size but which has been kept above ground. The program is around three quarters complete. The work provides support for the Hand line proposal.

Enquiries have been made with clubs who participated in the original Long Term Rope Test to see if they wish to participate in the new phase. It is hoped to move forward to purchasing the rope in the next month or so.

Development work continues on the research project based on the Bradford Pothole Clubs rig to accurately measure force time profiles in dynamic testing of rope. A paper has been published in the latest issue of CREG on the development work. Another paper was published in latest issue of Speleology on hawser laid rope work demonstrating that polypropylene rope was not suitable for SRT or lifelining. (Yes I know supposedly every one knows it is not but I still get asked "can I". And one follow up to the paper has asked what about using 35mm diameter polyprop rope.)

*Bob Mehew, March 2011*

## **Item 11: Training Officer's Report**

I do not have a report as everything is still ongoing. I have only heard back from one Regional Council - Derbyshire - about the future of the Training Committee. I have also had responses from NAMHO, CDG and ACI. I am quite concerned about the time it takes to pay T/A for the work they do on behalf of the BCA. I feel it may be time for the Training Officer to totally administer the training budget with the second signature being the Secretary.

## **Item 12: Publication & Information Officer's Report**

No progress on convening a P&I meeting so far. Too much to do so little time. I need to hold the meeting to finally thrash out how our plans of using BCRA as the publishing arm of BCA will actually work.

Awaiting publication are the Weather Booklet and also the Hydrology of Goyden Pot and Manchester Hole booklet from the Training Committee. As soon as we have agreed how the "publishing arm" will work in practice, these will be produced as online PDF's and also as print on demand publications.

The Radon Book is getting nearer to publication, although there are a couple of issues still outstanding, they appear minor.

We need to decide if we are to print any more "So You Want To Go Caving" and "Try Caving" leaflets as we have very few left of either.

It looks like Speleology is pretty much on Schedule, but we have not progressed any further with Nick's ideas that were approved funding some time ago. We need to agree to a meeting of the "sub committee" that were assigned this task. Perhaps we can "kill two birds" with the P&I meeting.

I believe Newsletter number 14 is in production.

*Les Williams, March 2011*

### **a) Webmaster's Report**

The Transfer of websites to our new server proceeds very slowly. This is quite a technical task that requires some reasonably in-depth knowledge of how servers work and also scripting languages. If anybody feels they are able to assist with this, please contact myself or Cookie to offer help.

*Les Williams, March 2011*

The webserver has been performing well with no outages that I'm aware of. I have increased the server's capacity by 20GB to accommodate the ever-growing usage. The automated invoicing system is now fully implemented and working well.

An assistant is still needed who can help out with the work load and cover whilst I'm away. All the individuals suggested so far have declined. I suspect I need to advertise for a volunteer. Such a volunteer needs to be the right person. This is both a technically challenging roll and a position of some responsibility.

*David Cooke, March 2011*

### **b) Newsletter Editor's Report**

The latest newsletter (#14) is currently being put together. If there is any material for insertion, please send it to me as soon as possible.

*Mike Clayton, March 2011*

### **c) Handbook Editor's Report**

Work has begun on the 2011-12 version of the Handbook (which we have agreed will be called the 2012 version). In the next month or so I will be asking everyone to review their sections and let me have changes. Publication will then be around the beginning of July.

*Damian Weare, March 2011*

## **Item 13: Legal & Insurance Officer's Report**

Nothing to report.

*David Judson, March 2011*

## **Item 14: Youth & Development Officer's Report**

No written report submitted.

*James Collings, March 2011*

## **Item 15: Membership Administrator's Report**

### **2011 BCA Membership to 23<sup>rd</sup> March:**

- DIMs: 336 (caving) and 42 (non-caving)
- BCRA DIMs: 212
- BCRA Honorary: 4
- CIM Plus: 12

- CIMs: 3719 (caving) and 874 (non-caving )
- Clubs: 146
- Associates: 9
- Access: 5

**New Clubs:** The following clubs have supplied the correct paperwork and payment in order to become a member club of BCA: NFI (“Northern Friends Incorporated”) Caving Club and “Old Matey’s Caving Club”. In addition “The Golden Valley Caving Club” has supplied the correct paper work, but not as yet payment. “Cardiff University Caving Club” has supplied payment, but despite repeated reminders, not a constitution.

**2011 Renewal Process:** The madness of January and February has passed and the workload is now becoming less manic. The picture is of a typical Thursday afternoon during January or February, with cards waiting to be packaged and posted on the Friday.



**Query:** I have had an email exchange between a club that was told (by DJ on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2006) that:

“Under 16 do not need to join anyway because if they do cause an accident/injury to a third party it will be their 'responsible adult' who will be sued not them. In third party insurance terms they are regarded as minimal risk, both for this reason and because they are rarely worth suing, having little or no money!”

My understanding is that there is no (minimum or maximum) age limit restriction to BCA membership and that (for a club) all members must be members of BCA for the club to be covered by the PLI policy. I would appreciate that this meeting confirms my understanding before I reply to the club.

*Glenn Jones, March 2011*

## **Item 16: Insurance Manager’s Report**

**1. Covers under the age of 18:** The question of membership of the scheme by minors has arisen. The scheme itself has no lower age limit because minors are considered to be at a low risk of being sued since they have no assets. I have previously taken the view that minors should therefore be members of the scheme just like anyone else. They do not benefit from reduced rates which are available to University club members, my logic for which being that those who are not university students will be able to afford the relatively modest cost of becoming members as CIMs or DIMs. I have previously been challenged on this and have suggested that if people want to alter this policy then they should bring a proposal to Council. So far, no one has. I would be grateful if Council would confirm this approach, or agree an alternative.

**2. Expedition travel insurance policy:** Questions have arisen about the status of the Towergate travel policy which we have previously recommended to expedition cavers. It has been pointed out that the wording of the policy does not clearly cover self-rescue from a remote location where there are no local rescue services, and enquiries to Towergate have not been able to confirm unequivocally that this is covered. It has also become clear that exactly the same policy is available for about £30 less than Towergate by going elsewhere. I have therefore deleted the reference to the Towergate policy from the BCA web site, pending clarification. I have spoken to Anderson Ashcroft, our broker for the PL Scheme, and they have indicated that they may be able to find cover for a scheme which would provide rescue and personal accident insurance as a member benefit for BCA members. At time of writing I am also trying to schedule a phone call to the manager of the Snowcard scheme who may be in a position to extend their scheme, plus recent postings on UK caving have indicated that AMEX may offer a suitable policy. This all needs following up and sorting out but I have been very short of time recently so progress is fairly slow.

**3. BCA Financial Services:** For the record, I would like to note that we recently received a cheque for £135 from Summit Financial Services, which is the first payment from them in return for our endorsement of their life assurance policy services.

**4. Entre-Prises 'fake' cave:** We were able to source a second hand box trailer in reasonable condition for the Entre-Prises cave. This cost £2000 plus VAT, significantly less than the agreed budget, although we have had to spend some time and some money on minor repairs. This work has been undertaken by Conformance Ltd staff and billed to BCA at cost. We have also spent small amounts on minor additional equipment such as spare nuts and bolts, spanners, security for the trailer, ratchet straps etc. I propose to spend a further £300 or so purchasing some crash mats to be used at the entrance and exit to the cave, and having the trailer sign written. Overall, we should still be within the budget agreed for purchase of the trailer, but Council probably ought to endorse the reassignment of the spending. The intention is that the trailer should become a completely self contained kit.

So far, we have about six bookings for the cave this year. For information, a copy of the notes which are sent to people wanting to book the cave are attached (see Appendix 2) - these are still work in progress.

*Nick Williams, March 2011*

## **Item 17: Convenor of the Radon Working Party's Report**

The Radon Booklet in its present state has been forwarded by e-mail to all Council Members, although Bob is expecting to modify parts of the appendices at the end.

Bob and myself are in dispute over the font. He likes arial whilst I prefer a serif script as it is far easier to read viz newspapers, which are varieties of Times Roman.

*Clark Friend, March 2011*

## **Item 18: Cave Registry Co-ordinator's Report**

Earlier this month I wrote to all the Regional Councils, The Grampian Speleological Group and Speleological Union of Ireland with the intention of starting the task of producing a national list of all UK caves, mines and sites of speleological interest which can act as an index to the regional registries. This is a key aim of the National Registry and an essential first step for any future work.

The intention is that each Regional Council is responsible for their own area, the GSG for Scotland and the SUI for Ireland. The first task is to appoint a coordinator for each region. Their main task will be to assign each site in the region a uniquely id. That sounds daunting, but in practice may be delegated. For example the MCRA has already done this for most of the CSCC region.

The second task is to define the boundaries between the regions, in particular between CSCC, DCA and CNCC. The areas can not overlap otherwise sites could be given more than one unique id. I suspect these two "simple" tasks will keep me busy for some time.

*David Cooke, March 2011*

## **Item 19: International Representative's Report**

As I mentioned in my Chairman's Report, since the last Council Meeting I have spent most of the time caving in Mulu.

I have, however, had an enormous amount of correspondence reference the International Union of Speleology. The next major item on the calendar is the UIS Bureau Meeting in Bruno, Czech Republic on the 12<sup>th</sup> April. This meeting is to check out the venue for the next International Congress which will be here in 2013. In addition, at this meeting a review of UIS Commissions will take place and initial work on a venue for the Congress in 2017.

Other items on the International Caving calendar are - International Cave Rescue Conference in Bulgaria between 8th - 15th May. Also at this time for anybody who might be interested the Australasian Caves and Karst Management Association are meeting in Tasmania. Early June sees the Granite Caves Symposium in Sweden followed by the 20<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> June is the annual Karst School in Postonja and 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> June is Climate Change and Caves Register in Birmingham, England. 30<sup>th</sup> June - 3<sup>rd</sup> July is the Balkan Speleological Congress. The beginning of September sees a Speleological Meeting in Russia. These are just some of the International events coming up!

If anybody is interested in any of these, they can see them on the UIS website where there is a detailed calendar of forthcoming International Caving events.

*Andy Eavis, March 2011*

## **Item 19a: FSE Report**

There is not much to report. The next Bureau meeting is to take place in Macedonia in July.

Rescon activities on the central site will end earlier than predicted in Bulgaria, so a new venue for next FSE Bureau meeting will be in Kula-FYRO Macedonia, 30km from Skopje, on the afternoon of Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2011, during the annual Balkan Cavers' Camp. During the Balkan Cavers' Camp, there will be the traditional FSE stand with our famous Marie-France and possibly several FSE thematic meetings.

The FSE General Assembly Meeting will be on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 1.30pm during the 6th EuroSpeleo Forum to be held in Marbella.

I will try to push the issue of the next Euro Congress (which UK has expressed an interest in hosting) at the Macedonia meeting.

*Ged Champion, March 2011*

## **Item 20: Media-Liaison Officer's Report**

I attended the Outdoor and Leisure show. Nigel Atkins spoke on Friday and I did presentations on Saturday and Sunday (twice).

- Sheffield Adventure Film festival – contact from Matt Heason struggling to get people to attend the caving lectures and films. I phoned and discussed this with Matt after receiving the email.
- BCA image library – no progress to speak of.
- A few phone calls as per usual including journalist after photos from Vietnam expedition. I generally get one a week from various people with different interests, not always the press but because my number is online I get the phone calls.
- Sanctum 3d didn't seem to do much or create excitement about caving/cave diving in the media – at least I didn't notice anything – anyone else?

*Chris Jewell, March 2011*

## **Item 21: British Caving Library Report**

The Library Steering Group held its 10th. meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

**Library Reorganisation and Re-cataloguing:** All books, off-prints, UK periodicals, BSA/CRG/BCRA publications and all but the last few shelves of foreign periodicals have already been transferred from Matlock to Glutton, only a few van-loads are left to come.

Book cataloguing is completely up to date, new entries are added to the catalogue as they arrive and the data is forwarded to Martin Laverty for incorporation into the online catalogue on the British Caving Library website. Recataloguing of foreign periodicals continues as they are transferred from Matlock, new entries are added as they arrive. Merging of the two sets of UK periodicals at Glutton continues; they will be re-catalogued once this is completed and the duplicates extracted; new UK periodical entries are added as they arrive. Again, as work is completed, the data will be passed to Martin Laverty for incorporation in the online catalogue. In the process of transfer a number of foreign language books and expedition reports are coming to light and these are being shelved and catalogued among the books for the first time, making the catalogue more relevant and these items easier to find.

Once the foreign and UK periodicals have been dealt with we shall start a similar exercise and stock-check with BSA/CRG/BCRA, etc. items. After this we will work through the boxes of off-prints from Matlock, which appear to contain numbers of items which we would not now class as "off-prints".

**Disposal of surplus Library stock:** The Steering Group has now agreed a policy on disposal of surplus library stock which is intended to make the best possible use of these assets.

Duplicate copies of books will be kept where there are different editions, where a copy has been annotated, has additional items pasted into it or is a signed or presentation copy. Otherwise duplicate books will be assessed for possible sale or donated to various libraries or, as a last resort, put into a "Lucky Dip" to raise funds at Hidden Earth.

We shall normally keep only one copy of UK and foreign periodicals and surplus copies (which may be compiled into "runs") will be dealt with as for the books. Where periodicals have been bound, we shall keep a second set of unbound copies for use if required for photocopying or scanning. We intend to keep two copies of all BSA, CRG, BCRA, etc. publications and will reserve one set either bound or in pristine condition, plus a second set unbound for photocopying or scanning. Surplus copies will be dealt with as for books and other periodicals.

We have identified a number of Libraries which would benefit from items we have surplus to our requirements: The National Museum of Wales in particular and various caving club libraries.

**Donations to the Library:** We now receive a number of donations of collections of publications, some include items which rate as "archive but not required by BGS", and these we keep separately in the Library Archive collection. Other items received include photos, books, periodicals, reports and off-prints. We check, before agreeing to accept such donations, that we may dispose of any items which turn out to be duplicates - so far all donors have been happy to agree with this.

**Enquiries:** We are receiving an increasing number of enquiries: some can be answered by emailing scans or posting photocopies; some are effectively "mystery queries" which can be answered by references to items held in the Library itself or by reference to the catalogue produced by David Judson of archive material which has been transferred to BGS. An increasing number of enquirers are visiting the Library, where they are made very welcome, and do their own research, including making copies or scans using the facilities we provide. For BCA/BCRA members we have now standardised on the first 20 copies or scans carried out by the Librarian being free of charge, after that the payment is 10p per page; for people doing their own photocopies, we charge after the first 20 pages. However, some people are happy to do their own scans and take away an electronic copy on their own memory stick free of charge.

**Exchanges:** Despite all our efforts we are still having problems in re-starting the "foreign exchanges". This enabled BCRA in the past to acquire a collection of foreign periodicals unique in the UK and a valuable reference source for UK cavers travelling abroad. The cost to BCRA of providing these exchange items and posting them was considerable so we have checked carefully on the value to UK cavers of each of these items and hope the programme can soon be re-started.

**BCRA Sales Publications:** Thanks to Trevor Faulkner's efforts, the stock of BCRA publications for sale has been rationalised. The current stock is still stored at Glutton Bridge but it no longer takes up space within the Library itself. Once the financial side has been dealt with by BCRA admin. people, items sold are simply posted out by the Librarian, who also keeps a check on the stock.

*Jenny Potts, March 2011*

## Appendix 1: Copyright Transfer Letter

Les Sykes  
49 Manfieldd  
Ashurst  
Skelmersdale  
Lancashire  
WN8 6SU

Bob Dearman  
The Green Cottage  
Main Street  
Chelmorton  
Buxton  
Derbyshire  
SK17 9SL

### Conditional Transfer of Copyright

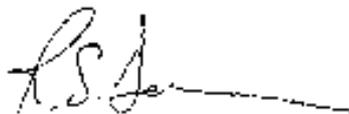
We (L. Sykes & B. Dearman) authorise the conditional transfer of copyright of the document 'Permanent Resin Bonded Anchors' (IPTD) from us (the authors) to BCA Equipment & Techniques Committee.

Conditions of transfer:

That the document, or any part of the document, must not be published (either in print or electronically), or circulated (either in print or electronically), without the written consent of the authors.

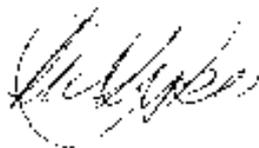
The document is only used as a training & reference manual for trained anchor installers, after they have successfully completed an anchor installation course arranged and delivered by the Equipment & Techniques Committee of the British Caving Association.

Bob Dearman



Date 12 March 2011

Les Sykes



Date 12 March 2011

## Appendix 2a: Letter from E&T Committee to CSCC



Tuesday, 21 October 2010

My ref. 10D1396

Faye Litherland  
CSCC Representative to the Equipment and Techniques Committee  
Hylands  
Kingsway  
Holcombe  
Radstock  
Somerset  
BA3 5DU

Dear Faye

**Re- BCA anchor replacement scheme equipment.**

As you are aware, the Equipment and Techniques Committee meeting on 11 September noted that CSCC has voluntarily withdrawn from the Anchor replacement Program. On the basis of a vote taken at the meeting, the Committee resolved to request that the equipment supplied to CSCC under the scheme should be returned so that it can be offered to other Regional Councils who remain in the scheme and find themselves without all the equipment they need.

I would be grateful if you would arrange for the equipment and any spare anchors to be returned at your convenience.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Williams", written in a cursive style.

Nick Williams  
Convenor, E&T Committee

## Appendix 2b: Letter from CSCC to E&T Committee



### Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the British Caving Association

[www.csccl.org.uk](http://www.csccl.org.uk)

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Hayley Clark  
Wilderhope  
West Grimstead  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire  
SP5 3RF

Thursday 24 February 2011

Nick Williams  
Convenor, E&T Committee  
The Old Methodist Chapel,  
Great Hucklow  
Buxton  
Derbyshire  
SK17 8RG

Dear Mr Williams,

Thank you for your later dated 21 October 2010 regarding the BCA anchor replacement scheme equipment and the request by the E&T Committee for the return of any equipment and spare anchors supplied to the CSCC under this scheme.

The matter was discussed at the CSCC general meeting held on 12 February 2011 and the meeting resolved that given that the equipment and materials held by the CSCC for the purpose of bolting was funded by the BCA, the CSCC will only respond to a specific request for its transfer to the E&T committee from the BCA National Council.

Yours Sincerely

Hayley Clark

CSCC Secretary

## **Appendix 3: Notes on Use of Artificial Cave**

### **BCA Artificial Cave – Information Sheet**

Thank you for your enquiring about booking the BCA artificial cave. This document contains important information about your booking.

**Please be aware that the combined replacement value of the cave plus trailer is about £15,000. Please take care of them while in your possession!**

#### **Deposit:**

There is no charge for use of the cave however to book it you are expected to pay a deposit of £250.00. Once you have collected the cave it is your responsibility to ensure it is returned in the condition in which you received it. Money may be deducted from your deposit for necessary repair work, lost parts or cleaning if the cave is not returned in a satisfactory state.

The deposit can be paid by leaving a cheque (which we will only bank if necessary) or by giving us a credit card number we can charge if necessary. If we decide to refund less than full deposit we will inform you before taking any action.

#### **Collection/ Return:**

It is your responsibility to collect and return the cave for your event. For a weekend booking the cave can be picked up on Thursday or Friday. We will generally expect you to return it on Monday or Tuesday of the following week although where possible we will be flexible with this requirement so long as you agree a return date with us in advance. The cave is stored, and transported in a large box trailer (see pictures). To tow it you will need a vehicle which is rated to tow at least 1.5tons and to ensure the driver has an appropriate (B+E) licence to tow it. The address for collection is:

The Old Methodist Chapel  
Great Hucklow  
Nr Buxton  
Derbyshire  
SK17 8RG  
Phone: 01298 873800 - Ask for Glenn or Nick.

**THE TRAILER CANNOT BE INSURED FOR ROAD RISKS (TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, FIRE, THEFT ETC) BY BCA – PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE TOWING VEHICLE HAS ADEQUATE COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE FOR TRAILERS!**

Insurance against theft of the trailer will only be valid if the appropriate security arrangements are made for the trailer when it is not in use. The trailer has a locking hitch and is also provided with a wheel clamp. Please use both when the trailer is not in use. Additional measures such as storing the trailer behind locked gates or boxing it in with locked vehicles will also help.

**PLEASE TAKE CARE TO ENSURE THAT THE WHEEL CLAMP IS REMOVED BEFORE TRYING TO MOVE THE TRAILER!** Driving off with the wheel clamp still fitted will cause significant damage which will be deducted from your deposit. Generally, it is a good idea to ensure that the trailer hitch is disconnected from the vehicle and is locked closed whenever the wheel clamp is fitted since this will help to remind you to remove the clamp before attaching the trailer to the towing vehicle.

**Set-up:**

The cave can be set-up in a few different configurations but as guide you will need to reserve an area of 5 x 10 metres. If space is limited you can leave out segments to make the cave smaller.

If you have more space and are expecting a lot of potential visitors, you may wish to make up two separate caves from the available pieces in order to get a greater throughput of people per hour.

Small children will generally take between 30 seconds and a minute and a half to traverse the full cave length. Adults may take up to 10 minutes.

**Assembly:**

Inside the trailer you will find a laminated set of instructions about how to set up the cave. Please check these are there when you collect the cave. There should also be a laminated list of parts supplied in the trailer and a laminated instruction sheet detailing how to use the wheel clamp for the trailer.

*<we will need more assembly details here but this is enough for the moment>*

**Appendix 4: CSCC's Response to E&T Report****Council of Southern Caving Clubs (CSCC) Position Relating to the Return of Bolting Equipment & Sundries****Copyright**

The CSCC feels that it should reply to the E&T Convenor's report. We feel that BCA would be unwise to accept copyright via the letter submitted by Bob Dearman and Les Sykes (Appendix 1). In fact, the content of the letter does not transfer copyright and is so restrictive and conditional that in effect it assigns copyright to Bob Dearman and Les Sykes. Copyright of the IPTD document is unclear in law as well as in fact and would require a court case to determine if copyright lies with BCA or with Bob Dearman and Les Sykes. If BCA accepts the letter, then copyright is definitely with Bob Dearman and Les Sykes. BCA may well have given away their copyright.

In fact, the issue of copyright and indeed the accusations of plagiarism may in the near future no longer be valid, as at the last E&T Committee meeting a vote was taken to refuse to supply any of the anchors purchased by BCA from Jonathan Simms to CSCC or share any of the testing data, even though at the previous E&T Committee meeting a vote was taken to allow the supply of anchors for use in Matienzo which would not be part of the scheme (see minute 9.0 from 11<sup>th</sup> September 2010 E&T Committee meeting). Therefore, CSCC are now forced to seek an alternative anchor which will most likely have a differing recommended installation method, requiring the CSCC documents to be updated and further diverging the two schemes.

CSCC are happy to support Nick Williams suggestion to work together with the other members of the E&T Committee to resolve the copyright issue. However, it is worth noting that the reason for the similarities between the documents arose due to a sincere intent on the part of CSCC to work to harmonise the IPTD and the CSCC scheme into a single program once differences of opinion had been resolved.

**Equipment currently in the possession of CSCC for the purposes of anchor placement**

As a result of the current differences of opinion regarding the technical content and distribution of the IPTD, the CSCC temporarily withdrew from the BCA Anchor Placement Scheme. The CSCC then published a set of interim documents to allow us to fulfil our member obligations and place bolts in the Southern Region in a controlled manner until a resolution to the situation could be found. These bolts are being placed for the benefit of all cavers

and not just CSCC member clubs.

The main reasons for the withdrawal of CSCC from the BCA anchor placement scheme were:

a) Restricted availability of the document for approval: Due to the way that CSCC is structured, only the club member representatives hold a vote, not the CSCC officers. Therefore, approval of any document can only be reached following consultation with the club representatives and by default the committees of those member clubs. CSCC also feels that any document of this nature should be freely available to all BCA members.

b) Assessment and revalidation procedure: We accept that it is within the scope of the scheme to assess an anchor placers ability to place an anchor. However, we do not feel that it is the responsibility of the scheme to assess their other skills, including SRT and rigging. In fact the assessment of the scheme had evolved to “self-appointed expert” status, where officers of BCA were approving their own professional fees in direct contravention of BCA’s Constitution.

c) Technical inadequacies: The IPTD focuses solely on the use of a single type of resin bonded anchor, in the type of limestone found in Yorkshire and Derbyshire. It is widely accepted that differing rock types require differing types, numbers and locations of anchors to provide a safe placement. Put simply, the formulaic application of the IPTD methods in differing rock strata and type may lead to accelerated failure. Furthermore, as BCA has officially trained and validated the people carrying out these anchor placements, it retains at least partial liability. In addition, only mechanical wear has been considered as a failure mode, not corrosion.

d) Skills prerequisites: The IPTD requires that all cavers wishing to be considered for training must be competent in SRT and rigging techniques. CSCC feels that the SRT competence of the individual is irrelevant unless the anchors are being placed for SRT purposes. If the anchors are being placed for ladder and lifeline (more common in the CSCC region) or rescue purposes, then it is those skills and competencies which are relevant, not SRT.

At a meeting of the Equipment & Techniques (E&T) Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2010, the members attending stated that the equipment supplied to CSCC for the purposes of bolting belonged to the BCA Anchor Placement Scheme, not the E&T Committee or BCA, and voted for its return from CSCC.

This matter was discussed at the next CSCC meeting. We feel that the equipment belongs to BCA, not to the Anchor Placement Scheme. How can the equipment belong to a scheme that has no Constitution, Officers, bank account and has been entirely funded by BCA? It was the feeling of the meeting that as the CSCC was still part of the E&T Committee, part of BCA, and still placing anchors on behalf of BCA for the benefit of all BCA members, we have a legitimate requirement to retain the equipment. In fact it would be nonsensical for BCA to request the return of the equipment to the E&T Committee, only for CSCC to purchase new equipment to be funded by BCA.

The CSCC believes that the resolution effectively expelling CSCC from the E&T Committee, tabled and voted upon at the last E&T Meeting was against the BCA constitution with reference to section 7.2. This concern was raised at the meeting. Fortunately the resolution failed, but if it had succeeded it would have had far reaching implications for BCA.

The CSCC continues to support the work done by the Equipment & Techniques committee in all areas. The letter submitted as appendix 2b was not intended to denigrate the workings or function of the E&T Committee, but was simply stating our response to the request made to us as appendix 2a.

In light of the above, we suggest a counter proposal:

*“The council affirms that ultimately it retains control of all equipment bought by BCA. Therefore, as CSCC are continuing to provide a service on behalf of BCA for the benefit of all cavers, they shall retain the equipment currently in their possession.”*