

Chairman's Report

It has been a year since I took on this role and generally speaking it has been mostly enjoyable, but a considerable amount of work as well.

I note that a massive amount of work has been carried out on behalf of BCA and the wider caving community during this time by a fairly small number of volunteers, a generally thankless task mostly carried out behind the scenes.

The individual reports here detail some of this work, but there are actually hundreds, if not thousands of man hours involved in running all the various aspects of BCA, mostly by volunteers, who give their time freely to help keep the caving institutions running, for the benefit of members and the wider caving community as well.

I realise that many people won't know who these volunteers are, nor what they actually do, but I would like to thank them personally for all their work and commitment.

For those that don't know, Nick Williams (BCA Secretary) had to stand down during last year for personal reasons, after many years of service to BCA. Nick was around at the formation of BCA and before that was involved in NCA and also BCRA. Over the years he has supported BCA and put in a massive amount of work in his various roles. BCA will be the poorer for his leaving. On behalf of the caving community, and especially for BCA I wish to thank him for all the years service he has given and to wish him well for the future. Thank you Nick.

I also note that two long standing officers of BCA are retiring at this AGM so I feel it's only right to take this opportunity to offer our thanks to them.

I wish to single out Robin Weare at this point for the massive amount of work he has put in behind the scenes keeping the work of the Executive up to date.

I don't think I know anybody else that has worked so conscientiously and diligently to carry out the various roles he has found himself "volunteered" for during my tenure. In my opinion, all the members of BCA owe him a huge debt of gratitude. Thank you very much Robin for all your work, I hope you can now enjoy your retirement (from BCA that is).

I also want to thank Andrew Hinde for the work he has put in over many years as the Conservation and Access Officer. This is an important role and Andrew has done his best to keep BCA on top of the many challenges that have come his way. Thank you Andrew I wish you well in your "retirement".

I note there is a lot of business presented to this AGM, I hope we can work through it all as efficiently as possible.

Les Williams

BCA Chairman