

IT Working Party

The IT Working Party (ITWP) exists to provide expertise to BCA on IT matters. It also provides IT support. The ITWP is comprised of a small group of techies and a representative from the Executive. The following are items that the ITWP have been involved in.

Golden Age of Caving. In December 2017 there was a successful and very enjoyable weekend of caving talks and films hosted by the Royal Geographic Society in London organised by Andy Eavis. The ITWP was involved in a minor way to make those talks available online as of November 2018. They are available on the micro-site created for the event at <http://www.rgs.gharparau.org.uk/talks> and are well worth a look.

Online Ballot. I have liaised with Will Burn during the year. I committed to putting in place the necessary software to provide an in-house electronic voting system. Work on this has commenced. It is designed to work with the procedures in the current Constitution. I expect it will be able to accommodate any future changes to the Constitution. The political aspects of this, identifying and implementing any changes to the Constitution, remains Will's responsibility to lead.

Despite reports to the contrary the BCA Online database of members is perfectly good enough to use for a ballot. Reports are regularly run to spot duplicates, multiple memberships, name changes, etc, etc. The Membership Administrator spends a fair bit of time chasing these up. DIM postal addresses are checked for validity. We rely on the clubs for accurate CIM postal addresses. All members who supply an email address can check their detail with BCA Online at any time.

GDPR. The General Data Protection Regulation has now been superseded by the Data Protection Act 2018. Consent to process members personal data was gained from them as part of the 2018 renewal process. The renewal forms included a paragraph on data protection and also drew the members' attention to the Privacy Notice. There is more work to do internally, particularly with respect to Training. GDPR compliance should be seen as an on-going process that will need periodically reviewing. Responsibility for GDPR has been passed to a group comprising representatives from the Executive, Membership, Training and ITWP.

Training Admin Software. The GoMembership software was extensively evaluated from a technical point of view including issues such as support levels, ability to customise, access to our data in the event of a disaster, integration with our existing system, etc, etc. Subsequently the GoMembership software has been adopted. We are in the setup phase which requires significant IT input. A demo system has been setup for training and configuration purposes. We need to decide upon the best way to bend the software to BCA's particular requirements. There are on-going consultation meetings with GoMembership to help us through the process. The hard graft was/is being done by Gethin Thomas, Mary Wilde, Robin Weare and I.

Software Development. The work on enhancing BCA Online and the Membership System continues. The BCA-Online software that I've developed for BCA has been open-sourced. It is available on GitHub. This is the best way to manage software development with a team of volunteer programmers. If you are a programmer and keen to be involved please get in touch.

Membership Renewal. Quite a bit of time was taken up working on the 2019 membership renewal process. The procedures, software and forms have been updated to implement the new under 18 membership rate and further updated for GDPR.

Remote Access to Meetings with Video Conferencing. The ITWP has not been involved in this project.

David Cooke
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