

NATIONAL CAVING ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL COORDINATING PANEL for the LCMLA Scheme

Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th November 2001 at Stafford County Council Sports and Social Club, Stafford at 10.30 am.

Present: John Cliffe (Coopted member of Training Committee) JHC, John Crowsley (South of England ALO) JCr, Mick Day (NCA Chair) MD, Dave Edwards (Derbyshire and Dave Edwards and Associates) Ded, Eric Hoole (South Wales ALO) EH, Bob Mehew (NCA Treasurer and Pro Tem Training Convenor) BM, (Chair for meeting) Duncan Morrison (Northern ALO) DM, Dena Proctor (North Wales ALO) DP, Pat Ramsden (RAM Business Services) RAM BS

Preamble

BM proposed that the main business of the meeting was to discuss and edit JCr's paper on the formalisation of the LCMLA Scheme. This was likely to curtail consideration of many of the other agenda items.

1 Apologies for absence: Paul Ramsden PR

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

DP requested that 5.3 be changed. Pen Ultha was in fact Penarth Mine and the entrance had not collapsed. It is in fact now safe following remedial work. The Minutes of the previous meeting on 13th July 2001 were then accepted as a true record.

3 Matters arising:

3.1 (3.5) No progress has been made. This item to be deleted as the matter has been incorporated in the review of the LCMLA by JCr.

3.2 (3.7) Completed by BM and RAM BS.

3.3 (3.8) Completed by BM and RAM BS.

3.4 (3.9) Completed by BM and RAM BS.

3.5 (3.10) No progress. Action BM to continue.

(The proposed association of caving instructors may wish to take over the matter of insurance for its members if it is constituted.)

3.6 (3.14) First action point - See main agenda item. Second action point - evidence of meeting trainer/assessor criteria confirmed by JHC and forwarded to RAM BS. Action complete.

3.7 (3.15) Action complete. List sent to RAM BS. All South of England trainer/assessors approved for all sites, subject to personal knowledge in the usual way.

3.8 (5.1.1) Discussion paper produced by JCr. ALOs requested to give comments to JCr. Ask JCr if a copy is required. (DP to send a copy of paper to EH.) Action (part 1) ALOs & JCr. Action (part 2) JCr.

3.9 (5.1.2) BM had sent a number of e-mails to Andy Eavis. (No reply to date.) Action BM.

3.10 (5.4.1) Action still with BM.

3.11 (5.4.2) Some comments had been made by JCr to DM. This item is now part of the review of LCMLA by JCr. Action JCr and DM?

3.12 (5.7.3) DP has some agenda items for the North Wales LCMLA Trainer/Assessor workshop which have been discussed with DED. Item complete.

3.13 (6.1) Self financing of NCA Training Schemes. EH volunteered to write a paper. Action EH.

3.14 (7.1) Organisation of LCMLA Trainer/Assessor Workshops. Note complete but BM had sent e-mails to DP and Dave Baines to cover arrangements for financing the planned workshops. (Copy to be sent to JCr.) Action BM.

3.15 (7.3(a)) dates confirmed as:

Mendip - Monday 18th March or Mon 8th April 2002. To be decided.

Action JCr/DEd/BM

Northern England - 16th November 2002.

Action BM to review (with RAM BS) the requirements for workshops in 2002. (DEd said that 16th Nov. and 8th April 2002 are OK.)

3.16 (7.3(b)) BM reported that DM's address had been incorrectly given out. He lives at Greenstead not 2 Greenstead, i.e. omit the 2. Action RAM BS et al.

DM reported that there will be a dedicated NCA Training website in the next month or so. The inclusion of LCMLA Trainers/Assessors contact addresses is being considered.

3.17 (7.3(c)) Action complete.

3.18 (7.4) Action transferred to JCr review. Otherwise still to be done.

Action BM/JHC.

3.19 (8.1) Action transferred to JCr review.

5:27 pm

3.20 (8.2) Action complete. Section 5 reissued.

3.21 (8.3) Action complete. Also note included in Descent.

3.22 (10.3) Action complete.

3.23 (10.4) Actioned By DED. Also the principle to be included in JCr review.

3.24 (12) DM to check whether action completed.

4 Matters relating to Area Panels.

4.1 Forest of Dean

No report. No panel meeting since last NCP meeting.

4.2 North Wales

4.2.1 Panel meeting held on 28.9.01. Minutes presented to this meeting by DP. Action DP to e-mail copies to absent ALOs.

4.2.2 Dave Carlisle had visited many of the North Wales mines used and his report had been distributed to subscribers.

4.2.3 DP proposed Chris Jowett as a Level One Trainer/Assessor for North Wales. This was accepted subject to a copy of the relevant paperwork being sent to RAM BS who would then inform Chris Jowett by letter.

Action DP/RAM BS.

4.3 Northern England

4.3.1 DM reported concern expressed at a recent meeting of the Northern England panel (Minutes still to be distributed. Action DM.) about financing the LCMLA and CIC Schemes if there were no Training Officer/Convenor in 2002.

BM explained his position as Pro Tem Training Convenor and that he was unable to sustain this role in the longer term.

MD explained that the NCA was still looking for someone to stand for the post. The NCA constitution does not preclude someone with external professional work in caving being Training Officer although there are concerns in some quarters about possible conflicts of interest.

4.3.2 DM asked about the mechanism for bringing new Trainers/Assessors onto Local LCMLA Panels as the Northern Panel felt that there were probably enough for the predicted workload. This is to be considered as part of JCr review. Action JCr.

4.3.3 There had been an appeal by an LCMLA candidate (Eddie Edmundson) to have all 3 entrances to Yordas Cave included on the final report. This would include a pitch of 25m. (Maximum of 18m allowed under Level 2 of the scheme.) DM also reported that there may have been some inconsistency in including Yordas in assessment reports in the past. The candidate is to be asked by DM to write to BM who will explain the limits of the Scheme.

Action DM then BM.

4.4 South Wales

4.4.1 Panel meeting held on 4.9.01. Mainly discussed the criticisms expressed at the NCA AGM.

4.4.2 There was a consensus within the Panel to remain part of the National (NCA) Scheme.

4.4.3 There was a view that more access to funding was required to enable the LCMLA Scheme to be run more professionally.

4.4.4 There had been a six year revalidation workshop in South Wales. Nine persons attended.

4.5 Derbyshire

4.5.1 Panel meeting held on 3.10.01. Minutes distributed.

DEd specifically raised the following:

4.5.2 Content of vertical techniques modules. (This referred to JCr for inclusion in his review.)

4.5.3 Inputs into Trainer/Assessor workshops. DEd has been organising this.

4.5.4 Should the workshop be 2 days? This meeting confirmed its understanding that LCMLA Trainer/Assessor workshops are 1 day plus an optional underground trip on the second day.

4.5.5 It was reported that Daryl Godfrey had completed the process to be a Level One Trainer/Assessor. It was agreed that he be accepted subject to submission of completed paperwork. He will apply to be a Level 2 Trainer/Assessor when he has completed the process for this level. Action JHC to ensure that RAM BS gets copy of paperwork who will then confirm acceptance by letter.

4.6 Southern England

Panel meeting held on 9.10.01. Minutes distributed.

5 Matters from Dave Edwards and Associates.

5.1 DEd reported that he had evidence that a Derbyshire assessor had recently done an assessment at a ratio of 1:3 and included cave core skills and mine core skills.

The meeting confirmed that this is contrary to the established and documented running of the scheme in two respects:

- core skills assessments are allowed at 1:2 maximum.
- cave core skills are normally assessed over 1 day and mine core skills are assessed over 1 day (i.e. 2 days in total). The permitted exception is when they are assessed at an assessor : candidate ratio of 1:1.

The assessor is to be asked to explain and then rectify the situation.
Action BM.

5.2 DEd apologised for the slow start to his contract but he can now devote more time to it.

5.3 DEd reported that he would attend the LCMLA Trainer/Assessors workshop at Rhos y Gwaliau (24th/25th November 2001) to provide the required input and JCr would be doing the same, on his behalf, at the Derbyshire workshop (8th December 2001).

5.4 DEd has submitted an article for the next Training Bulletin of Speleoscene on SRT top tips.

5.5 The CIC formalisation is being dealt with at the next CIC Panel meeting on 6.12.01. Comments to DEd. (Persons at this meeting requested copies of the draft.)
Action DEd.

5.6 Bicton College had asked whether students aged under eighteen be allowed to attend an LCMLA training course. This matter had been considered at a previous meeting. Action BM to write.

6 Review of the LCMLA Scheme.

Consideration of a consultation document produced by John Crowsley.

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing Draft 1 of JCr consultation document. Little progress was made in relation to the size of the document due to lack of time.

Details of the changes were noted by JCr and BM.

(Post meeting note. It has been decided to incorporate those changes proposed at this meeting into Draft 2 and distribute this to all LCMLA Trainers/Assessors for comments. A working party will be convened in early 2001 to discuss the proposed changes and produce a final draft for comments.)

John Cliffe, Recorder