

### **World Depth Record**

Al Warild (an Australian) and 25 Russians / Ukranians have passed the previous limit of exploration (-5610ft) in Krubera Voronia Cave in Abkhazia, Georgia to set a new world cave depth record (given as "6000ft").

Progress was apparently stopped by a "freezing pool of snowmelt". The descent/ ascent took 9 days, Warild compared the adventure with "living in a fridge without lights".

A stream starts at 820ft deep and continues for most of the remaining descent. A telephone line taken down by the team was used to warn of surface downpours.

At 4,725ft the team reached a sump fed by the stream. The horizontal tube was passed using lightweight diving equipment.

Seven members of the team travelled with Warild to the current limit at the freezing pool into which a team of Ukranians are now planning to plunge.

More details, including a survey of the cave and a brief exploration log (in English) is available from the expedition website:

<http://speleolog.ru/news/10/>

### **South American Depth Records**

A recent expedition to Peru led by Peter 'Snablet' McNabb has succeeded (subject to confirmation from survey data) in claiming the depth record for South America. Sima Pumacocha 2 was previously pushed to a depth of -638m by some of the same expeditioners. The new depth of the cave is thought to be nearer 700m, although the survey notes haven't as yet returned to the UK!

In a separate success, another cave - Sima Pimacocha 1 contains a possible South American record shaft measuring approximately 270m in depth. The total depth of the cave

stands at -430m and is another entrance into the Sima Pumacocha system, but no physical connection between 1 and 2 has been made.

Another exciting discovery was that of Qaqa Machay, possibly the highest significant pothole in the world. The cave is approximately -135m deep (again subject to confirmation), but amazingly its entrance is situated at an altitude of 4935m.

### **British Caving Association Logo Competition**

It is still not too late to enter the BCA Logo Competition! The BCA is running a competition to find a logo, as advertised in the last Newsletter. Although some 16 entries were received in time to be judged at Hidden Earth in Kendal, the Judges felt that they needed to have more material to look at, especially considering the importance of this logo for the future of BCA. Therefore the Judges have decided to extend the entry date until the New Year 2005 to encourage more entries.

Further information and entry forms are available from [www.hidden-earth.org.uk](http://www.hidden-earth.org.uk) or by post from BCA Logo Competition, 3 Starrs Close, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2BZ.

There will be a prize for the 'All-Round Best Logo', judged on suitability to the BCA, concept, artistic merit, and practicality.

There will also be prize for 'Best Concept' for those of us who have good ideas, but no artistic talent what so ever. This will be judged on suitability to the BCA and concept.

**Note! New Editorial Address  
See Page 14 for Details  
Change of BCA Secretary Address  
See Officers List on Page 9 for Details**

# BCA Update

## BCA Subscription

The outcome of the BCA Council meeting on 9 October resulted in a revision to the subscription proposed by the Hub. The head line figures (NOT yet including Insurance) are £45 for Clubs and Associates, £15 for Direct Individual Members and nothing for Club Individual Members. Council agreed to do away with the need for club members to take out duplicate BCA Club Individual Membership so as to ensure insurance cover for the club. Joint Direct Individual Membership was also introduced. Council confirmed the direct benefits of membership of BCA as follows:

### Notes

Benefits	Individual		Group	Associate
	Direct (DIM)	Club (CIM)		
<b>Access to caves (1) (Subject to cave specific restrictions)</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Insurance</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	
<b>Members Handbook</b>	Yes		Yes	Yes
<b>Membership Card</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>BCA Newsletter</b>	Yes		Yes	Yes
<b>Journal</b>	Yes		Yes	Yes
<b>Conservation &amp; Access info</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Access to grants (Training, Expedition, Equipment)</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	
<b>Voting</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	
<b>Library</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Conferences &amp; Meetings (Discounted rate)</b>	Yes			
<b>Technical Information</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Training Awards (LCMLA, CIC )</b>	Yes	Yes		
<b>Low Cost Web Hosting Service</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Information and Advice (equipment, safety, legal, techniques)</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>BCRA Activities (2)</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**1** Many cave access agreements are based on the land owner only permitting “clubs” to descend.

**2** BCA is negotiating with BCRA to provide free or reduced price access to the functions which BCRA will retain.

In addition, BCA undertakes a wide range of works (perhaps badly called “administration” in the past) on behalf of the caving and underground world. Examples from the past few years include the provision of grants for conservation and access work, making representations to Government on proposals to outlaw the use of Single Rope Techniques, coordinating work on the baseline survey of SSSI caves to enable the assessment of possible future damage and in obtaining grants for expeditions. And, of course, not least, the provision of insurance cover so that

## BCA Update

caving activities can take place. Insurance is the bed rock of all access agreements as virtually all land owners demand we cover them as a minimum. And unfortunately in these times, it is also a necessary requirement for any organisation to operate, including Regional Caving Councils, National Bodies as well as BCA itself. A proposal made by the Hub formed the basis of Council's discussion on setting the subscriptions for 2005. This paper is available on BCA's web site under the Subscription page. Council's debate was long, vary heated at times and touched some raw nerves amongst representatives at times. The Hub proposed that the subscription be set on the basis of costs arising from four elements, Insurance, BCA Works, Tithing and Publications.

The Insurance element covers not only the cost of the Insurance Premium, but also administering the service and building up a fund to reduce the need for the Excess clause. BCA Works covers a wide range of activities of BCA, namely Administration, Conservation & Access, Equipment & Techniques, Expedition, International, Legal & Insurance, Library, Meetings & Conferences, Publications & Information and Training. Tithing covers BCA funding the costs of Regional Caving Councils core work in providing conservation and access. Publications cover an annual handbook, a newsletter and a journal. As a whole, the services of BCA are designed to provide the One Stop Shop for all the services which a caver needs.

Initially attention was focused on the Insurance element. Attempts to identify the administrative costs from the 2005 budget were unsuccessful, as no budget for the Insurance element had yet been set. A number of critical remarks were made about the quality of the service provided during the year and a few learning points were noted. A notable bone of contention was the failure to tell clubs why some members did not get BCA membership cards. Clubs were not aware that these cards were sent out via other routes. As a consequence some clubs were left wondering whether full insurance cover had been obtained.

The paper noted an intention to look again at the need for clubs to take out Club Individual Membership for a club member who already had membership of BCA through some other route. Following some debate, Council agreed to remove the need for duplicate CIM membership for 2005 onwards.

Council finally decided that it was not appropriate to sub divide the Insurance element and that the BCA Executive and BCA's Insurance Manager would be empowered to set the value for the Insurance element when the insurance premium was known and a budget could be set.

The headline data from the Hub on setting the other elements of subscription was:

	Costs				Proposed Subscription ex Insurance
	BCA Works	Publication	Tithe	Total	
<b>Direct Individual Member</b>	£1.43	£11.78	£1.09	£14.30	£20
<b>Club Individual Member</b>	£1.43		£1.09	£2.52	£5
<b>Club</b>	£1.43	£11.78	£1.09	£14.30	£30

Very strong objections were made by the Council of Southern Caving Clubs' representative who had been mandated to ensure the costs of BCA Works were only borne by Groups. Representations were also made by one club about the proposal to charge Club Individual Members £5. The Hub were also severely criticised over the size of the up lift from cost to subscription.

A number of clubs had expressed a real fear that they would lose more members if the cost of what was being seen as unnecessary insurance rose any higher. It was pointed out that all members of a club stood at risk if a claim against the club arose over an accident. (An insurance claim

that arose during the mid 70's at one stage threatened to engulf the whole club. It was eventually settled out of court.) BCA's insurance provided cover against such risks and hence is a benefit to all members, even those who no longer actively use the club's facilities.

A debate was held on whether Club Individual Members should bear any cost of the running of BCA. The point was made that BCA could not be seen to be "selling" as a condition of obtaining the insurance. (This arises from concerns in the insurance industry over fraudulent selling of insurance.) Thus insurance can only be provided as a benefit of membership of BCA.

The debate briefly touched on communications with Club Individual Members, if BCA did not intend to send them publications. It was noted that as part of the deal to accept the concept of Club Individual Members, Clubs would have to undertake the duty of communicating to their members, information about BCA. The only thing BCA would send to Club Individual Members would be their postal ballot form, if needed. (BCA did intend to make full use of its web site to ensure members could keep up to date with developments, dates of activities and future meetings etc.)

Eventually the meeting adopted the compromise of setting the CIM value at zero without completing the debate on the principle of whether the CIM subscription comprised of only the Insurance element or the three elements of Insurance, BCA Works and Tithing.

The meeting also debated the topic of tithing at length! The concept of tithing is for BCA to fund core activities of Regional Caving Councils, so as to remove the need for BCA members to join other bodies, being the "One Stop Shop" concept. However, Regional Caving Councils would still retain the autonomy to raise money by additional subscriptions and other means so as to carry out additional work.

Although the Derbyshire Caving Association had been unable to send a representative to the meeting, prior communication from them indicated that they were in favour of the tithing mechanism, provided it did not undermine their autonomy. The Council of Northern Caving Clubs' representative indicated that they were in complete favour with the tithing mechanism. The Cambrian Caving Council representative indicated that although they supported the tithing mechanism, they had reservations since the details were as yet uncertain. It was pointed out that the mechanism had been discussed by the Hub which had involved four of the Regional Caving Councils' Treasurers and had been described both in Hub minutes and in the back ground to the proposal to set BCA's subscription for 2005. The Council of Southern Caving Clubs' representative stated that CSCC had passed a motion at its recent meeting "*That the CSCC should continue to set its own subscription to be collected locally*". Devon and Cornwall Underground Council had sent their apologies to the meeting so no view was expressed. It was point out that their representative had been an active member of the Hub and hence it was assumed they would be content with the tithing mechanism.

A proposal to change the tithing mechanism to one of BCA collecting subscriptions on behalf of the Regional Caving Councils was rejected as not being compatible with the concept of the "One Stop Shop". The debate then focused on the details of the tithing mechanism. Eventually it was agreed that a figure for tithing would be adopted for setting the subscription. However, it was further agreed that this figure would be the subject of a review by Regional Caving Councils' Treasurers in conjunction with Jonathan Roberts (as the person who had focused within the Hub on Regional Caving Councils costs), Bob Mehew (BCA Treasurer) and moderated by Pat Hall (BCA's recently appointed Auditor). The meeting was set for 28 November as a number of people (including DCA's Treasurer) had already indicated they were available on that date. CCC and CSCC Regional Caving Councils' representatives agreed to ensure either their Treasurers would be available or a suitable alternative would attend the meeting.

Council then went onto to set the subscription for each of the types of membership. A short discussion on the Publication element accepted the proposal that BCA should produce a handbook for 2005, 6 newsletters and only 2 journals. Negotiations were still on going with BCRA over sharing Speleology and the extent to which BCRA subsidised the costs. As the cost of Speleology is sensitive to the number of copies required, it was accepted that one edition would be published in the first half of the year. BCA and BCRA would then review the situation in the light of knowledge about the number of copies required.

A very small uplift was accepted to cover inaccuracies in setting the budget. The values are as follows:

	Elements				Subscription
	Insurance	BCA Admin	Publication	Tithe	
<b>Individuals</b>					
Direct Individual Member	not known	£2	£12	£1	£15 + ?
Joint Direct Individual Member	not known	£2	£12	£1	£15 + ?
Club Individual Member	not known	£0	£0	£0	£?
<b>Group</b>					
Club with Insurance	not known	£18	£12	£15	£45 + CIMs
Club with no insurance	excluded	£18	£12	£15	£45
National Bodies	Depends	£0	£12	£0	£12 + ?
Regional Caving Councils	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Cave Rescue Organisations	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Access Controlling Bodies	not known	£0	£12	£0	£12 + ?
<b>Associates</b>					
	not provided	£18	£12	£15	£45

The cost of the insurance element will reflect whether an individual is an active caver or not. In addition, individuals joining later in the year will pay a subscription reduced each quarter, as was offered for 2004.

#### Direct Individual & Joint Membership

A Direct Individual Member (DIM) is a person who joins BCA directly, as an individual. A Club Individual Member (CIM) is a person who joins BCA through a club, see below for further information. All individual members receive insurance cover as a benefit, though the subscription will reflect whether they are classified as an active caver or not.

Joint members must use a common address and will be eligible to all of BCA membership rights, including insurance cover, but they will only receive one copy of publications issued by BCA. (The subscription is based on sum of the subscription costs of a DIM and a CIM.)

#### Club & Club Individual Membership

A club may join BCA without taking out insurance. If no insurance is required, the proposed subscription is £45. Clubs should indicate which Regional Caving Council (RCC) they wished to be linked to and it will be up to the RCC to confirm club membership of BCA.

If a club wishes to obtain BCA insurance, all members of the club must join BCA as Club Individual Members (CIM). In doing so, a club must agree to convey to all its members (who are thus BCA CIMs) information on what BCA is doing and, in particular, the dates of BCA meetings as BCA does not supply this information directly to CIMs. This is because CIMs do not receive publications from BCA, thus reducing their membership subscription. The only direct communication which BCA will make with CIMs is to send them ballot papers, if a BCA General Meeting requires a motion be ratified by postal ballot. (Clubs are not empowered to vote on behalf of their CIMs in the House of Individual and Honorary members, see Section 8 of the Constitution.)

Club members will not need to duplicate CIM membership to ensure cover for the club. Club members with certain types of alternative insurance may be permitted to only take out non active caving CIM membership to ensure cover for the club. Details are available from BCA's Insurance Manager.

Clubs with huts and / or which are access controlling bodies and require insurance must pay, an additional sum reflecting these extra risks. In return for obtaining cover for control of access,

the club is required to recognise all BCA members as being eligible for access to the caves they control, subject to cave specific requirements such as mandatory leaders, clubs only access etc.

There are specific arrangements for members of two clubs (the CDG and EUG). These clubs will directly inform their members on behalf of BCA.

#### National Body Membership

National Bodies, excepting CDG, pay a subscription of £12. (CDG is covered by a special arrangement.) Apart from the Association of Caving Instructors (ACI), all other accepted National Body members are covered for their activities by BCA's insurance. Regrettably, BCA is unable to provide insurance cover to ACI due to ACI's professional indemnity risk.

#### Regional Caving Councils

Regional Caving Councils (RCCs) do not need to pay a subscription. Accepted RCC members are covered for their activities by BCA's insurance, including their access controlling body functions where the RCC has a need for such cover. As before, RCCs must recognise all BCA members as being eligible for access to the caves they control, subject to cave specific requirements. Given there is no subscription, RCCs should write each year to indicate their continued desire to remain a member of BCA and that the letter should specifically state if insurance cover is required. (This is required to ensure whether RCCs need the insurance cover or not.)

#### Cave Rescue Organisations

Cave Rescue Organisations (CROs) do not need to pay a subscription. Accepted CRO members are covered for their activities by BCA's insurance. For the sake of completeness, this insurance cover will include any access controlling body functions that the Cave Rescue Organisation may undertake but does not cover "Call Out Activities" where insurance is provided by the initiating body (c.f. Police / Home Office / Scottish Office). As before, CROs must recognise all BCA members as being eligible for access to the caves they control, subject to cave specific requirements. Given there is no subscription, CROs should write each year to indicate their continued desire to remain a member of BCA.

#### Access Controlling Bodies

The subscription for Access Controlling Bodies is yet to be set. In return for obtaining insurance, the Access Controlling Body is required to recognise all BCA members as being eligible for access to the caves they control, subject to cave specific requirements such as mandatory leaders, clubs only access etc.

#### Associate Membership

Associates are those Outdoor Activity Providers, Businesses and other groups which have an interest in caving. Their subscription is the same as for Clubs: i.e. £45. BCA is unable to provide insurance cover to them or their members.

*Report: Bob Mehew*

### **BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION TRAVEL INSURANCE SCHEME**

Our policy is written specifically for caving expeditions and includes the cost of cave rescue (by a recognised rescue service), as well as loss or damage to baggage and personal effects. There is a discount for all individual members of BCA/BCRA. For full cover details, terms and conditions and enquires please contact the provider directly: Jardine Lloyd Thompson Leisure, Freepost GR1144, Gloucester, GL1 1BR. The table below illustrates rates effected prior to 31 Dec 2004.

Period in Days	Europe		World-wide excluding USA, Canada & Caribbean		USA, Canada & Caribbean	
	BCA	NON BCA	BCA	NON BCA	BCA	NON BCA
Up to 10	£34.11	£39.22	£51.47	£59.18	£59.49	£68.41
11 to 17	£39.31	£45.21	£66.54	£76.52	£75.00	£86.25
18 to 31	£51.20	£58.88	£92.19	£106.02	£102.31	£117.66
Each additional Week or Part	£11.90	£13.69	£23.89	£27.47	£28.99	£33.44

# Candidate to BCA National Council Form

BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION - AGM - 12 March 2005

(Job Descriptions will be available online at [www.british-caving.org.uk](http://www.british-caving.org.uk))

Members are invited to stand for the following posts on BCA National Council\*

- Chairman (to serve for a 1 year term).
- Treasurer (to serve for a 3 year term).
- Publications & Information Officer/Convenor (to serve for a 3-year term).
- Equipment Officer/Convenor (to serve for a 3-year term).
- Training Officer/Convenor (to serve for a 1 year term).
- Conservation and Access Officer/Convenor (to serve for a 2 year term).
- Legal and Insurance Officer/Convenor (to serve for a 2 year term).
- Two Club Representatives (to serve for a 2 year term).
- Four Individual Representatives (to serve for a 2 year term).

\* The period of office is in accordance with the sequence for the election of candidates agreed at the NCA/BCA Council Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2004 (point 9a and Annex 1). This will provide a staggered sequence for the re-election of officers in future years with only 1/3 of officers being re-elected at any one time.

Candidates are expected to supply evidence of membership of BCA (membership number) and a brief profile/election statement. The statement must be a maximum of 300 words in length (this is about 1/2 side of A4). The cost of reproducing and circulating these will be borne by BCA.

A candidate will not be considered until the BCA Hon. Secretary receives both the appropriate profile/election statement and proof of membership in the form of the BCA membership No. All Candidates will be acknowledged by the Hon. Secretary.

Please return the completed Nomination Form, to arrive not later than midnight on 3rd January 2005, to:

British Caving Association  
Hon. Secretary  
25 Mariner's Heights  
Penarth  
CF64 1QJ

BCA Council Post Candidate wishes to stand for:

.....

Name of Candidate: .....

BCA Membership Number: .....

Signature: .....

Address of Candidate / Phone / Email: .....

.....

.....

# Regional News & Access

## Mendip

### Regional Council - COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS

For information on CSCC, send S.A.E to: Hon. Secretary: Steve King, 33 Ottery Way, Didcot, Oxon. OX11 7UG.

E-m: [secretary@cscc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cscc.org.uk)

Website: [www.cscc.org.uk](http://www.cscc.org.uk)

#### Piney Sleight Farm

The last issue mentioned that Piney Sleight Farm had changed hands. The CSCC C&A Officer has since visited the new owners who are happy for the existing arrangements to continue. Cavers may park there whilst visiting Charterhouse Cave/GB Cave for a goodwill fee of a pound.

#### Waterwheel Swallet

The dams in Waterwheel Swallet have been renovated. Trips to the further reaches of the cave are consequently a much wetter (and therefore more sporting) experience!

Steve King, Hon. Secretary CSCC

## Derbyshire

### Regional Council - DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

For information on DCA, send S.A.E to:

Hon. Secretary, Jenny Potts, 3 Greenway, Hulland Ward, Ashbourne, Derbys. DE6 3FE.

Tel: 01335-370629, E-m: [dca@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:dca@theDCA.org.uk)

Website: [www.theDCA.org.uk](http://www.theDCA.org.uk)

#### Devonshire Mine Problems

It has just been reported on 9 Sept. 2004 that large rocks have been piled against the entrance of Devonshire Mine, Matlock Bath preventing access. This is the gated lower entrance by the footpath (the only official entrance) and, as far as we know, no problems with visiting groups have been notified to DCA by the landowner. We are currently investigating who has placed these rocks, and why, and we will attempt to get access restored as soon as possible. Please avoid Devonshire Mine altogether until further notice - we will keep you

informed. Please do not attempt to use any of the now blocked entrances higher up the hillside to enter the mine.

#### Update:

Update Enquiries have disclosed that the rocks blocking off the Devonshire Mine gate were placed by persons unknown without the knowledge of the landowner. The landowner has confirmed that she is satisfied with the present access arrangements and is willing for this to continue. A working party is being organised to remove the rocks from the site and, if possible, to prevent a recurrence. Please be patient and we will let you know when it's open again.

Report: Jenny Potts, DCA

#### Thefts in the Monyash Area

On Sun. 22 August cavers parked at the top of the lane beyond Summerhill Farm while they were down Water Icicle had all the wheeltrims from their cars stolen. No other damage or theft took place but, be warned, people other than cavers do go up the lane, even though it's not a public right of way.

Report: Jenny Potts, DCA Sec. / Treasurer

## Wales

### Regional Council - CAMBRIAN CAVING COUNCIL

For Information on CCC send S.A.E to:

Hon. Chairman, Sue Mabbett, 2 Garth Close, Morganstown, Cardiff, CF15 8LF. Tel: 02920 -844558, E-m. [suemabbett@hotmail.com](mailto:suemabbett@hotmail.com)

## Forest Of Dean

### Regional Contact - FOREST OF DEAN CAVE CONSERVATION AND ACCESS GROUP

Hon. Secretary, Dave Appleing, 128 Brooklyn Gardens, Cheltenham, Gloucester. GL15 8LW. Tel: 01242-581385, E-m. [DAppling@aol.com](mailto:DAppling@aol.com)

## North

### Regional Council - COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

For information on CNCC, send S.A.E to:  
Hon. Secretary, Les Sykes, 49 Manfield,  
Ashurst, Skelmersdale, Lancs. WN8 6SU  
Tel/Fax. 01695-728673  
E-[les@speleo999.freemove.co.uk](mailto:les@speleo999.freemove.co.uk)

### Comments Section

*This issue we begin our comments section where people choose to lavish praise, or otherwise, upon our publication and more importantly, reflect on the work and progress of the British Caving Association! Please feel free to send your views and suggestions (constructive ones that is) to the editor at: [newsletter@british-caving.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@british-caving.org.uk).*

To BCRA Chairman Nick Williams:  
Hi Nick

This is just a quick impromptu note to say what a fantastic job I think that you (and others) have done on the BCA front. I'm awestruck at what you've been able to achieve.

Dick Willis

# UNIVERSITY CAVING SEMINAR 2004



## YSS 26th-28th Nov

£15 including accomodation and food  
organised by CHECC. [unicaving@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:unicaving@yahoo.co.uk)

## BCA/NCA OFFICERS 2003-04

### Chairman:

Mick Day,  
118 Whitmore Road,  
Harrow, HA1 4AQ  
Tel. 020-8422-9668  
E-m. [chair@british-caving.org.uk](mailto:chair@british-caving.org.uk)

### Hon. Secretary:

Eddy Hill  
25 Mariners Heights,  
Penarth,  
CF64 1QJ.  
Tel. 07961 090630  
E-m. [secretary@british-caving.org.uk](mailto:secretary@british-caving.org.uk)

### Hon. Treasurer:

Bob Mehew,  
8 Dunbar Road, Hillside,  
Southport, PR8 4RH.  
E-m. [finance@british-caving.org.uk](mailto:finance@british-caving.org.uk)

### Conservation Officer:

Elsie Little,  
Hennoyadd Villa,  
Hennoyadd Road,  
Abercrave, SA9 1UR.  
Tel. 01639-730331  
E-m. [conservation@british-caving.org.uk](mailto:conservation@british-caving.org.uk)

### Equipment Officer:

Andy Pryke,  
2, St. Maurice Road,  
Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 1JS.  
Tel. 01752-205853  
E-m. [equipment@british-caving.org.uk](mailto:equipment@british-caving.org.uk)

### Training Officer:

Idris Williams,  
Glen Cottage, Holden Lane,  
Ruyton-XI-Towns,  
Salop. SY4 1JD.  
Tel. 01939-260412  
E-m. [training.officer@british-caving.org.uk](mailto:training.officer@british-caving.org.uk)

### Legal & Insurance Officer:

David Judson,  
Hurst Barn, Castlemorton,  
Malvern, Worcs, WR13 6LS.  
Tel. 01684-311057  
E-m. [landi@british-caving.org.uk](mailto:landi@british-caving.org.uk)

### Publications & Information Officer & Webmaster:

Les Williams,  
51 Churchill Road East,  
Wells, Somerset, BA5 3HU.  
E-m. [webmaster@british-caving.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@british-caving.org.uk)

# BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION

## WEB SERVICES

The British Caving Association can now offer cut price web hosting solutions for its members. This is a fully featured service which gives you complete control of your webspace and email. Hosted on Windows 2003 servers or the latest Redhat Linux servers.

**Basic Webhosting** (Windows 2003 servers) £25 Per year  
(includes unlimited POP3 mail boxes, unlimited Email forwarding, personal control panel, Perl, PHP, compiled CGI support)

**Linux Webhosting** (latest Redhat Linux servers, Apache,) £40 per year  
(includes unlimited POP3 mail boxes, unlimited Email forwarding, personal control panel, Perl, PHP, compiled CGI support)

### Domain registration and renewal

£7.00 for 2 years (.uk domains)

£11.00 per year (top level domains)

**Password Protection** £15 per domain per year

**Spam Filtering** £15 per mailbox per year

**Virus Scanning** £25 per domain per year

**Web Stats** £15 per domain per year

Many other services available including:

ASP, .NET Framework, FrontPage Extensions, ODBC, Databases.

### POA.

**Note:** These prices are for clubs and individuals.

Commercial organisations can also purchase web space at competitive rates, please contact the webmaster for details and prices.

Information is available on the BCA web site [www.british-caving.org.uk](http://www.british-caving.org.uk)

Email: [webmaster@british-caving.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@british-caving.org.uk)

## Training Courses

### LCMLA LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REVALIDATION WORKSHOPS 2004

This list is not comprehensive and LCMLA holders are advised to contact their Area Liaison Officer for other Revalidation Workshops. Names and contact details may be found on the Training Pages on NCA's web site [www.nca.org.uk](http://www.nca.org.uk).

Derbyshire

November

Dave Baines - Tel: 01298 25031 & 07980 118656,  
6 Millcliff, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6QP

Northern England 11 December

Graham Mollard - Tel: 01535 691587, Email:  
[graham@gnmminiatures.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:graham@gnmminiatures.fsbusiness.co.uk) Micawber,  
Yewbank, Skipton Road, Utley, Keighley, BD20 6HJ

# Training News & Courses

For any other enquiries either look on the Training Pages on NCA's web site or contact the **Training Administration Provider at NCA Training Administration**, C/o RAM Business Services, Sun Lea, Joss Lane, Sedbergh, Cumbria, LA10 5AS, Fax/Tel: 015396 22040, Email: [trainadmin@nca.org.uk](mailto:trainadmin@nca.org.uk).

The following workshops are planned to take place in the near future:

## C.I.C REVALIDATION WORKSHOPS 2004 (Costs on Application)

**November 27 / 28 (Sat / Sun)**

**Course Director** Tony Flanagan, Tel: 015242 41210, Ffrancon, Thornton-in-Lonsdale, Ingleton, Via Carnforth, Lancs, LA6 3PB. Email: [tony@flanagans.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:tony@flanagans.fsnet.co.uk).

## TRAINER / ASSESSOR WORKSHOP 2004

**Saturday, November 13th**

**Contact** Duncan Morrison, Tel: 015242 51011, Greenstead, Newby, Nr Clapham, North Yorkshire, LA2 8HR. Email: [duncan@aboveandbelow.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:duncan@aboveandbelow.freeserve.co.uk).

**2005**

**Sat 22 January , North Wales**

**Contact** Dena Proctor (NB new contact details) Tel: 01490 440208  
Ty Isaf Dinam, Llandrillo, Corwen, Denbighshire LL21 0TB. Email: [Denaryg@aol.com](mailto:Denaryg@aol.com).

**Sat 23 April, Mendips**

**Contact** Tony Smith Tel: 01342 822625  
Hindleap Warren, Wych Cross, Forest Row, Sussex RH18 5JS. Email: [tonytrugsmith@aol.com](mailto:tonytrugsmith@aol.com).

**Sept - date to be arranged, Derbyshire**

**Contact** Dave Baines Tel: 01298 25031 & 07980 118656  
6 Millcliff, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6QP.

## C.I.C TRAINING COURSES 2004

**November, 2 / 5**

**Course Director** Tony Flanagan, Tel: 015242 41210, Email: [tony@flanagans.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:tony@flanagans.fsnet.co.uk).  
Yorkshire Dales at Ingleborough Hall, Tuesday-Friday inclusive,  
Contact Tony for residential/non-residential Costs.

**December, 7 / 10**

**Course Director** Tony Flanagan, Tel: 015242 41210, Email: [tony@flanagans.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:tony@flanagans.fsnet.co.uk).  
Yorkshire Dales at Ingleborough Hall, Tuesday-Friday inclusive,  
Contact Tony for residential/non-residential Costs.

**January 2005, 10 / 15**

**Course Director** Juliet Parker-Smith, Tel: 01497 820512, Email: [info@trewern.bardaglea.org.uk](mailto:info@trewern.bardaglea.org.uk)  
Trewern Outdoor Centre, Cusop, Hay-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR3 5RF  
Details from Trewern Office

# Training & Events

## Scouts train for Single Rope Technique.

*The following article is based on a Report from Dave Ridout, Hon. Sec. West Lancs. Scouts Caving Team.*

During a weekend in March sixteen members of the Scout Movement met at the Yorkshire Speleological Society premises at Helwith Bridge in the Dales. The weekend was organised by West Lancs but the course participants were drawn from West Lancs, Somerset, Shropshire and North Yorks.

The object of the weekend was to introduce 9 Explorer Scouts (14-18 age range) and 3 Adult Leaders all of whom had had good previous caving experience, including vertical work on ladders, to Single Rope Technique

The Instructor was Les Sykes CIC and three SRT competent Scout Leaders assisted him.

On the Saturday the group met at the Inglesport Climbing wall and learnt and practised the following:-

*Putting on and adjusting personal equipment.*

*Use of Cowstails.*

*Use of Stop descender in passing rbelay, deviations and knots.*

*Use of jammers in passing re-belay, deviations and knots.*

*Change over from ascent to descent and vice-versa.*

Les also included a lot of useful hints in the care and maintenance of equipment.

Sunday was a practical caving day utilising the skills learnt on the Saturday in Sell Gill Holes.

The group split into two and some tackled the wet route and some the dry. As it had rained heavily overnight those on the "dry" route got wetter than those on the wet!

The whole event was a great success and should enable keen caving members of the Scout Movement to advance their caving skills and to progress to more demanding caves with the correct knowledge to do this safely.

The event could not have happened at an affordable cost for the young participants

without the assistance of a Training Grant from the NCA/BCA.

## Mines Inspections

### Good News

One of the problems with insurance that occurred at the end of last year was that the Mining Engineer, who carried out Mines Inspections of sites used by holders of the Local Cave and Mine Leader Assessment, was also unable to get renewal of his cover. He is a specialist Trainer/Assessor within the scheme and had carried his own insurance, with Perkins Slade, for this work and for his mine inspections.

As a consequence no Inspections have been carried out since 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004. After protracted negotiations with the BCA Insurers it has been found possible to include his Inspections on the BCA Policy.

### Bad News

Although inspections can now go ahead the bad news is that the backlog will take a while to clear. As many of the sites required annual inspections a lot of sites may not at present be usable, for groups of young people led by Award Holders, due to the lapse of inspections. Whilst the backlog will be cleared as quickly as possible, (hopefully by the start of 2005), sites where the inspection has lapsed will take priority and it may well be that sites currently in inspection may lapse for a short time, as the backlog is cleared. Centres with proposals for new sites should contact Dave Carlisle, but be aware that these will be given a low priority. Award Holders **MUST** check that each site is in date before using it. The Area Liaison Officer will be able to confirm the currency of inspections.

### Background

During 1994 discussions took place between HM Inspectorate of Mines, and the National Caving Association regarding the use of abandoned mine sites for groups of young people lead by workers from activity centres.

The result of these discussions was that, for all abandoned mines, in order to be used with these groups a form of inspection would

# Training & Events

be required. For the sites inspected by Dave Carlisle (most of them) he classified them into 4 categories:

*Category 1.* Simple underground workings suitable for easy non-vertical trips with no inherent hazards or potential ventilation problems. A one off inspection by a CIC holder would suffice,

*Category 2.* More complex systems, with possibly a vertical element, there may be artificial supports, packs, open stopes, handline descents etc. After an initial inspection by Dave Carlisle further inspections are triggered by NCA qualified leaders identifying hazards in the course of their work.

*Category 3.* Mines where there is a greater risk of changes to the fabric due to deterioration of supports, weight redistribution, slope instability etc. Many of these mines have vertical elements. A Mining Engineer, as above, inspects mines in this category at intervals specified by him.

*Category 4.* Mines in this category are unsuitable for group use for reasons of safety or conservation.

This system has worked fairly well for the past 10 years, and this is due in the main to the efforts, behind the scenes, of Area Liaison Officers and the Mining Engineer concerned who has carried out the bulk of the inspections.

Cavers and Mine Explorers, who charge for taking groups of young people underground in mines, are reminded that they should be in possession of the appropriate Local Cave and Mine Leader Assessment or Cave Instructor Certificate together with an up to date Mines Inspection Report for the intended site.

*Report: Idris Williams*

awesome weekend and I can guarantee this one will be even bigger and better than the last two.

We'll be staying at the YSS, which has approximately 50 bunks, plus camping is available at the Helwith Bridge pub just over the road. This superb location, approximately 14 miles from Ingleton is ideally placed for caving in the dales.

Like last year we'll be arranging caving trips and possibly pre-rigging a few caves but of course everyone is free to go off caving themselves. There should also be an SRT workshop - indoors and hopefully with a CIC, which is an excellent way to get your university/union off your back about training. Plus there will be the usual drinking, disco, competitions and prizes.

Like last year we're also planning to cater for everyone in the form of cereals, toast, sandwiches and BBQ in the evening. We do this because it would be really difficult for all the groups to cook individually in a small kitchen.

At this stage planning is just starting so if you want to get involved then please do, this event is run by students for students so we need everyone's help to make it a success. In particular we'll need people to help with the catering, people to lead trips or rig caves, people to help out with the srt workshop and to run sessions on things they're interested in. So if you can help then let me know.

The price will be £15 per head which includes the cost of accommodation and food. I want to stress that this isn't priced so that we can make a profit and any money we do make will belong to the Council of Higher Education Caving Clubs (CHECC) and be used to fund future events. The hope is that CHECC can then become a stronger organisation with the ability to really help university caving clubs.

Email [unicaving@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:unicaving@yahoo.co.uk) for more details, or if you want to purchase your tickets then send a cheque to 28 Hatherleigh Gardens, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 5HZ payable to c.jewell.

## Events Details

### **3rd University Caving Seminar (CHECC) YSS 26-28 Nov 2004, Helwith Bridge**

The Third University Caving Seminar is moving north for the first time. If you didn't come last year then you missed out on an

### **BCRA CAVE SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM 5 March 2005, Birmingham University**

Lecture Secretary is Andy Baker, School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT.

# Events & Training Officers

E-mail: [a.baker@bcra.org.uk](mailto:a.baker@bcra.org.uk), Tel: 01214 158133, Fax: 01214 145528. Further information will be on the BCRA website at [www.bcra.org.uk](http://www.bcra.org.uk) nearer the date.

## SUICRO 2004 - 23-25 October 2004

Speleological Union Of Ireland and Irish Cave Rescue Organisation Annual Symposium. Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, Ireland. Contact: Derry O' Sullivan Tel: +353 (1) 7162849.

## RESCON 05 - Poland

11-18 September 2005.

An International Cave Rescue Congress; RESCON 05 is organised by the Voluntary Mountain Rescue Service of Poland. If you are interested and would like to be added to the circular list please send your E-mail address to: RESCON 05 Director, Tadek Widomski [t.widomski@bz.net.pl](mailto:t.widomski@bz.net.pl) or RESCON 05 Secretary, Jarek Gutek [goutec@pro.onet.pl](mailto:goutec@pro.onet.pl).

## THE REVISED CIC HANDBOOK

The final draft of the revised C.I.C Handbook is now on the NCA website from where it can be downloaded.

## LCMLA HANDBOOK 2ND EDITION

The new LCMLA Handbook is now ready. All changes to the 1st edition are available as a single file on the NCA website from where they can be downloaded. [www.nca.org.uk](http://www.nca.org.uk)

## BCA/NCA ONLINE

NCA Website:

<http://www.nca.org.uk>

BCA Website:

<http://www.british-caving.org.uk>

Both websites will continue to operate as the BCA website gradually takes over and there are links between them. The BCA website currently concentrates on Membership and Insurance; other material relating to the national body will still be found on the NCA website for the time being.

## BCA Newsletter Editorial Address

BCA N/L Editor, Jim Cochrane, BCA N/L Editor, 148 Mackintosh Place, Cardiff, CF24 4RS

E-mail: [newsletter@british-caving.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@british-caving.org.uk)

## Publication Schedule

Published bi-monthly, Jan, Mar, May, etc

**Note: The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the formal view of the British Caving Association.**

## FUTURE MEETINGS OF BCA/NCA TRAINING COMMITTEE, 2004/5

All at 10am. At Stafford

25 Sept. & 18 Dec. 2004, 9 April 05

Items for consideration by the committee should be raised through your constituent body representative or sent to the Training Officer.

## Members of the Training Committee 2004/5

### Convenor & Training Officer:

Idris Williams, Glen Cottage, Holden Lane, Ruyton-XI-Towns, SALOP, SY4 1JD. Tel. 01939 260412, E-mail: [training.officer@nca.org.uk](mailto:training.officer@nca.org.uk)

### A Representative from each of BCA's constituent bodies:

These are currently:

The Regional Councils of Caving:

- Cambrian Caving Council
- Council of Northern Caving Clubs
- Council of Southern Caving Clubs
- Derbyshire Caving Association
- Devon & Cornwall Underground Council

### The other bodies which represent specialist interests:

- Association of Caving Instructors
- British Cave Research Association
- British Cave Rescue Council
- Cave Diving Group
- Council of Higher Education Caving Clubs
- National Assn. Mining Historical Organisations
- William Pengelly Cave Studies Trust

### Co-Opted Members are:

- John Cliffe, 4 Kensington Avenue, Lansdown, Cheltenham, Glos. GL50 2NQ. Tel. 01242-262505 E-mail: [jcliffe@gxn.co.uk](mailto:jcliffe@gxn.co.uk)
- A representative of the Forest of Dean Conservation & Access group.
- The Chairmen of the CIC Panel

## Publications

### **NCA/BCA PUBLICATIONS ON TRAINING / SAFETY, CONSERVATION, ETC.**

From: NCA PUBLICATIONS, c/o 3 Greenway, Hulland Ward, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. DE6 3FE  
For queries, contact:- Tel. 01335-370629, E-mail: [dca@theDCA.org.uk](mailto:dca@theDCA.org.uk).

All cheques etc. should be made payable to N.C.A.

For "free" items, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope as appropriate.  
(C5 envelope with 1st. or 2nd. class stamp for DL or A5 items.)

**Report of Technical Advisors Seminar** (40pp) (£2.00 incl. p&p)

NCA Training Committee Report

**Guidelines for University and College Caving Clubs.** (8pp) (£2.00 incl. p&p)

(The 'Guidelines' includes the leaflet **Caving Notes for Beginners** which is NOT available separately)

#### **NCA Cave Conservation Handbook**

The definitive Cave Conservation Publication, supported by English Nature, Countryside Council for Wales, Scottish Natural Heritage and other conservation bodies. 174 pages, fully illustrated, with sections detailing threats, initiatives, policies, legal points, etc. plus regional sections and appendices.

(Sold unbound - you provide your own file cover.) (£1 + £3 p&p)

(Sold complete with file cover.) (£10 + £4 p&p)

**Cave Conservation Policy** (32pp) (£3.00 incl. p&p)

**Lost Caves of Britain** (Cave conservation video) (£10 + £1 p&p)

**Radon Underground** (Radon Exposure During Underground Trips -  
A Set of Guidelines for Caving and Mine Exploration.) (24pp) (£3.00 incl. p&p)

**Weil's Disease Card** (Summary on credit card size plastic card) (20p each, £1.80 /10)

**Underground Britain - Legal & Insurance Issues** (Published 2003.) (£3.50 incl. p&p)

**Free Conservation/Safety/Information Leaflets - just send us an S.A.E.:**

**Cave Conservation Policy - Summary** (DL)

**Protect Our Caves** (DL)

**Bats Underground - A Conservation Code** (A4)

**Code of Practice for Mine Exploration** (DL)

**Leadership and Instructor Qualifications in Caving** (DL)

**Weil's Disease leaflet** (DL)

**So, You Want To Go Caving** (information leaflet for beginners / non-cavers) (DL)

**Syllabuses for LCMLA and CIC can be obtained from NCA Training Administration (see below) or downloaded from the NCA Training website at [www.nca.org.uk](http://www.nca.org.uk)**

*Almost all of these publications can be bought at a special discounted price from NCA/BCA stands at caving events such as Hidden Earth, Cavers Fairs, etc.*

**Training publications** may also be obtained direct from: NCA Training Administration,  
RAM Business Services, Sun Lea, Joss Lane, Sedbergh, Cumbria, LA10 5AS.  
Tel/Fax: 015396-22040, E-mail: [trainadmin@nca.org.uk](mailto:trainadmin@nca.org.uk).

### DEADLINES FOR FUNDING APPLICATIONS

**Ghar Parau Expedition Grants:** 31 August. Contact the Secretary, Hurst Barn, Castlemorton, Malvern, Worcs, WR13 6LF. Tel/Fax 01684- 311057. E-mail: [d.judson@bcra.org.uk](mailto:d.judson@bcra.org.uk)

**BCRA Research Fund:** 1 August, 1 December, 1 April. E-mail: [research-fund@bcra.org.uk](mailto:research-fund@bcra.org.uk)

## Dates for your Diary

### COURSES, CONFERENCES, EVENTS, ETC.

#### 2004

**October 23-25 - SUICRO 2004, Co. Tipperary, Ireland.** Details on page 14

**November 26-28 - 3rd University Caving Seminar, YSS, Helwith Bridge** Details on page 13

#### 2005

**March 5 – BCRA Science Symposium, Birmingham University** Details on page 13.

**July 1-3 - BCRC Seminar, Eastwater Farm, Priddy, Mendip**

### MEETINGS

#### 2004

Oct. 9 (Sat.) – BCA/NCA Council Meeting. 10.30am. Baptist Church Hall, Alvechurch

Nov. 27 (Sat.) – DCA Council Meeting. 10am. Monyash Village Hall.

Dec. 4 (Sat.) – CSCC Council Meeting. 10.30am. Hunter's Lodge, Priddy.

Dec. 18 (Sat.) – BCA/NCA Training Committee Meeting. 10am. Stafford.

#### 2005

Jan. 7 (Fri.) – CNCC Committee Meeting. 8pm. Hellifield Institute, Hellifield.

Jan. 8 (Sat.) – BCA/NCA Council Meeting. 10.30am. Baptist Church Hall, Alvechurch

Feb. 5 (Sat.) – CSCC Council Meeting. 10.30am. Hunter's Lodge, Priddy.

Feb. 19 (Sat.) – DCA AGM. 10am. Monyash Village Hall.

Mar. 12 (Sat.) – BCA AGM & NCA AGM. 10.30am. Baptist Church Hall, Alvechurch

Mar. 26 (Sat.) – CNCC AGM. 10am. Hellifield Institute, Hellifield.

Apr. 9 (Sat.) – Charterhouse Caving Company Ltd. AGM. 11am. Hunter's Lodge, Priddy.

Apr. 9 (Sat.) – BCA/NCA Training Committee Meeting. 10am. Stafford.

May 7 (Sat.) – CSCC AGM. 10.30am. Hunter's Lodge, Priddy.

### INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Check for details of these and other international events on the UIS Speleo Calendar at <http://rubens.its.unimelb.edu.au/~pgm/uis/events.html>

#### 2005

**February 8-12 – “Congress 65 Anniversary of Cuban Speleological Society”, Pinar Del Rio, Cuba.** Contact via website: <http://www.sec1940.galeon.com/> E-mail: [raudel@pinarte.cult.cu](mailto:raudel@pinarte.cult.cu) or [funatss@esiss.co.cu](mailto:funatss@esiss.co.cu) (Javier Mugica, Group Sama, Sociedad Espelologica de Cuba.)

**August 21-28 – 14<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology, Athens.** 1<sup>st</sup> Circular now available on NCA website [www.nca.org.uk](http://www.nca.org.uk) Contact details: E-m: [secretariat@14ics-athens2005.gr](mailto:secretariat@14ics-athens2005.gr). Fax: +30-210-3643476, Post: Secretariat, 14<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology, c/o Hellenic Speleological Society, 32 Sina Street, Athens GR 10672, Greece.

Website: [www.14ics-athens2005.gr](http://www.14ics-athens2005.gr)

**11-18 September - RESCON 05 - Poland.** Details on page 14.

The 'British Caving Association Newsletter' is the copyright property of the BCA. Parts of the newsletter may be copied and distributed within caving on the condition that the BCA Newsletter is credited as the source.

### EQUALITY STATEMENT

The BCA will make its services available to all sections of the sporting community, there will be no discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, sexual orientation, creed, colour, occupation, religion or political opinion.