



Draft Minutes of the Y&D Standing Committee meeting
[27-March-2020, 7pm, online meeting]

Recorder: Rostam Namaghi (convenor)

Attendance

Participant	Name	Initials
Convenor	Rostam Namaghi	RN
Cambrian Caving Council	Not present	
Council of Northern Caving Clubs	David Botcherby	DB
Council of Southern Caving Clubs	Not present	
Derbyshire Caving Association	Will Burn	WB
Devon and Cornwall Underground Council	Not present	
William Pengelly Cave Studies Trust	Not present	
Association of Caving Instructors	Not present	
National Caving Scout Active Support Unit	Josh White	JW
British Cave Research Association	Not present	
National Association of Mining History Organisations	Not present	
Council of Higher Education Caving Clubs	David Botcherby	DB
Cave Diving Group	Not present	
British Cave Rescue Council	Not present	

Note; DB representing CNCC and CHECC, but only one vote

Meeting opened 7pm.

(1) Approval of last meeting's minutes (09/02/2019)

Minutes of last meeting approved with no changes.

Note these have not been previously published and are presented in Appendix 1.

(2) Lend to Buy Documentation

RN: I purchased kit through Mark Wright to the value of £1925.34 in order to help set up Bangor University CC. The process reasonably raised a few red flags and when I reviewed the situation the documentation has not been good. A mix up of the lending scheme for new clubs with that of existing clubs was inevitable and this needs to be cleared up and made more transparent.

DB: Kit lending scheme was not the same as the additional one set with Robin Weare – if needs be we can collect all these schemes under one roof in Y&D. We probably shouldn't have called them the same thing.

RN: Are we agreed that we should spend £1925.34 on kit for a Bangor University club?

Unanimous vote in favour of spending £1925.34 for Bangor University

RN: It should be noted this has been a part of a package of support from documentation, networking to applications to various local access bodies. Does anyone have anything to add to the draft document?

RN: Should a financial limit per lend to buy scheme be set in the document?

WB: This seems overly complicated, isn't better for a total budget to be set by the BCA and then we spend within our means?

RN: That would be my preference too.

JW: Isn't this covered under the normal budget? I thought we had £5000 per year as a cap.

RN: That was my understanding, clearly this has to be clarified. Are we in unanimous agreement about the wording of the Document?

Lend to Buy Documentation Approved Unanimously (see appendix 2)

ACTION: Budget to be clarified with BCA Treasurer (RN)

ACTION: Documentation to be uploaded to the BCA website (ask Webmaster)

(3) Corona Virus – Emergency Preparations?

DB: Many events have been cancelled – Southern CHECC will be rearranged at a time when restrictions are lifted.

RN: Are you aiming for August/September?

DB: Maybe June/July before all the universities break up.

WB: Many have broken up already and are coming back in September.

RN: Given pretty much everything is cancelled and foreign travel will probably be iffy for several months it may give us a fairly large window to run support events. Do we (Y&D) need to prepare the University sector for a big experience and membership hit? What can the BCA/CHECC do/what do we need to get ready?

ACTION: An emergency Y&D budget for spending on fuel/venues for CHECC/Y&D training events and support. RN to add into discussions with Howard Jones (BCA Treasurer).

(4) Charterhouse Caving Company (CCC) update

RN: Phil Rowsell was brought in as a mediator between Y&D and CCC on behalf of council. Negotiations are ongoing. Essentially the Y&D position on the matter is unchanged, i.e. there is no legal difference between anyone under 18 for the purpose of cave access, there is no need for a 2:1 Adult to Child ratio – Chris Boardman’s advice was two adults per trip with under 18s, and that an unpleasant constitution breaking test case is round the corner if someone made a discrimination complaint to the BCA.

WB was asked to apologize for speaking to the landowner without permission – (he did in the April 2018 council meeting, but wording in the minutes is convoluted). To clarify this:

WB: I am sorry for speaking to the landowner without permission. I only did so after I was met with a refusal to give out further information. I am sorry if there was any damage to landowner relations.

RN: Youth and Development is happy to send personnel that have not been involved with CCC to help them as they pursue renegotiation of the access agreement so long as fresh approach can be demonstrated from both sides.

RN: CCC Ltd needs to repair its relations with caving community by holding open meetings would go some way to improve trust with local cavers. It’s a regional access issue, Y&D have no power to intervene.

(5) Ongoing Negotiations on behalf of a University Club (LUPC)

JW: Currently we are putting together case studies about how things work at other Universities, in order to reassure the Athletics guild so that caving can be resumed. DB has been assisting through CHECC, and we both attended the meeting in person. The BCA’s insurance going up to £10m has solved one of the issues.

DB: CHECC delegates have been reassured that their feedback to be anonymized.

JW: The club is in a vulnerable situation – we are doing everything we can to remedy this.

RN: It’s tricky, just have to keep everyone talking.

ACTION: JW to continue leading negotiations
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(6) Club Help Pack

This is currently the only project we are able to work on due to everyone’s sudden increase in ‘free’ time.

ACTION: RN to outline chapters and the group to write them. Once done will be sent to P&I.

(7) Any Other Business

Working Group

RN: After reviewing our documentation I realised that our terms of reference are no longer in line with the Manual of Operations (due to it being updated). Given that the only benefit a standing

committee confers over that of a working group is my vote, and the disadvantages being more bureaucracy I propose we reconvene as a working group at the next possible chance.

Unanimous agreement

Given the national council has vacant positions it would make more sense to occupy one of those if I wished to have a vote in meetings.

ACTION: RN to email a proposal to Matt Ewles

Scouting Update

JW: After some discussions with John Cordingley, (one of the executors of a generous estate left to caving in the dales) a few youth caving projects were supported. Two scout caving teams received a grant of £1000, one matched by their county for a further £1000.

DB: CHECC received some money, this was used for storage space at Bull Pot Farm and so was given to the Red Rose. LUSS (Lancaster University Speleological Society) also received some money.

JW: In other news Snowdonia & Anglesey have a Scout caving team – we pointed them to Sport Wales and they have had a generous grant. Also the Paul Dold Project is now complete, was due to open next weekend but due to events that has been postponed – obviously we are grateful for all the help (including using the remainder of the Y&D budget last year).

Meeting closed 8pm

Appendix 1: Minutes from BCA Youth and Development Meeting 09/02/2019, now finalised

Note; these minutes were not previously published as draft in error so are presented here.

Present: Rostam Namaghi (RN) - Youth & Development Officer, Will Burn (WB), David Botcherby (DB)
- CHECC, Paul Wilman (PW) – ASCT

Minutes taken by RN, meeting conducted in person at the Orpheus

Agenda

1. How the group runs?

After much discussion no conclusion was reached.

2. Current projects

- a. BCA Y&D Logo – RN to email Lydia Leather, using the second smaller cover idea
- b. Paul's project – Unanimous approval for PW's proposal for remainder of Y&D budget to be used for the Paul Dold project
- c. DB's Kit lend proposal, reviewed and confirmed – to be proposed at the next BCA meeting
- d. Lancaster loan – RN to clarify with Howard ? cancel loan
- e. Swansea loan – RN order to go out this week, transfer down somehow
- f. Meet the members:
 - i. Child Protection Policy – RN to CB for clarification
 - ii. Young person's FAQ – ask Josh White
 - iii. Scout help pack?
 - iv. CHECC faq – DB, the club handbook originally produced by Y&D to be reworked and published by CHECC
 - v. DBS check? Is this running yet? RN
 - g. Charterhouse: Cover letter WW – RN to reviewNo summary to be produced – refer to it in the meet the member packs
- h. Run BCA >18 caving camp – PW

3. Plans for the future

- a. CHECC new clubs
 - i. ? Hertfordshire cc not part of CHECC?
 - ii. Coventry – CHECC to find out
 - iii. Nothing more from Harper Adams
 - iv. London Veterinary College
- b. ? New locations
 - i. Bangor, Preston, Huddersfield, Newport, Gloucester, Hull, Leicester, Swindon, Bath – DB identified as strategic targets
 - ii. Mountaineers – DB, weekends run, need to see if the section model can be replicated
- c. Database: We need a reliable demographic output

4. Issues

- a. Mountaineering deaths, appropriate qualifications
- b. MUSC – specific to kit and no funding as a society and not athletics union - CHECC are advising, no Y&D input currently.

Appendix 2: Lend to Buy scheme wording accepted at this meeting

British Caving Association Youth and Development

Lend to Buy Scheme

This document outlines the scheme administered by the Youth and Development. It is designed to be delivered as part of a package of support, including documentation (Constitutions, Risk Assessments, DBS checks etc), networking (with local cavers, CHECC/NSCSASU, ACBs etc) as well as representation at meetings and advice on the day-to-day running of a club.

Aims

The aim of the scheme is to lend equipment to newly started clubs until they can financially establish themselves and repay the loan. These clubs have to be aimed at expanding engagement with under 18s or the Further Education sector.

Administration

We first assess an applicant club's viability. This includes:

- An engaged enthusiastic membership
- Ability to undertake trips (including both transport and safe leadership)
- Financial backing or ability to sustainably finance in future
- Other sources of support available

We then assess what would be needed – this is done after consultation with active caving club equipment officers. This takes into account storage, future potential wear and ensures the inventory listed is practical and tailored to the new club.

Once a final sum is arrived at then a repayment plan is drawn up. This is done with the advice of active caving club treasurers. We also try to take into account external funding and whether this loan repayment can be achieved using external grants. This may lead to a revised repayment plan. The total grant available is determined by the Youth and Development Budget as set by the BCA and the total number of other projects being undertaken.

Then a series of steps happens:

- i. The Club applies for BCA membership (with fees paid by the club)
- ii. A loan agreement for the equipment is drawn up, with negotiated repayment
- iii. The equipment is delivered

If the club folds/loan is not able to be repaid, the equipment is returned to the British Caving Association, via Youth and Development.