

# BCA Podcast Feedback Report

23/11/2020 BCA Publications and Information Working Group, by Dr R. Namaghi



This is the feedback report for the podcast released on the 10/10/2020 which was hosted by Rostam Namaghi and attended by Andrew Mcleod, Helen Adams, Josh White, Phil Rowsell and Tim Allen. It contained discussion about 10 proposals that were due to go to the AGM and subsequently to an online vote. It had 153 downloads and we had 9 responses from the google form.

Technical failures and delays in communication resulted in significant delay to the podcast coming out however despite this the feedback was generally positive with people finding the content interesting and is an encouraging sign that cavers want to engage with and improve BCA should we make it accessible. A summary of recommendations is written at the end of this report.

## Was this worth listening to?

All people who filled in the form thought it was worth listening to.

## Do you feel a wide range of views was appropriately covered?

8 thought a wide range of views were covered with one response thinking it was biased. In the detailed feedback this emerged to be down to the fact that the person felt the speakers had little experience of club administration rather than it being biased, more 'unbalanced'. I had cut a section on the discussion of membership administration due to poor audio quality and this probably exacerbated that impression.

**Recommendation:** Bring in more people with a background in club administration so that the content is more practical. Also reformat the question so that people do not feel like they are accusing bias if they feel something has been overlooked so that we can elicit more feedback like this in future.

## What would make it better?

7 responses mentioned timestamps, 3 mentioned captions/video overlay. Timestamps are an incredibly sensible suggestion and we will take this on board as it obviously will make the content more accessible.

**Recommendation:** Use timestamps

Originally this podcast was recorded as a video however due to a processing issue after the edit, our video became unusable. This meant that we had been expecting to have the proposals on screen while they were being discussed.

**Recommendation:** Record as if no visual component is going to be added.

2 responses raised issues with the timing - why release 12 hours before the meeting?

Unfortunately there were many reasons for this. The plan was developed in early september, discussions over proposals that were withdrawn and contacting the original proposers for who they would like to advocate for them became quite protracted. A format was only settled 2 weeks before the AGM.

The decision to publish was taken because (a) it was helpful to our members, (b) no voting was to take place at the agm, (c) this was the first online AGM and so some additional context was necessary due to the limitations

of a debate plus context on Zoom. It is understandable why it could be seen to be unduly influencing, however given the positive feedback on the wide range of views it made the best of a bad situation.

The following was raised by, presumably, a member of council:

*'How about making it far more widely known much more in advance? Was this a spur of the moment session? Don't you think it might have been a good idea to (a) let all council know this was going to happen and (b) give the chance for reps to feed back to their respective bodies? This was a bit out of order and had Phil not taken part you would be getting a bloody roasting for doing this.'*

The validity of the exercise is unaffected by the presence of a member of the executive. The format was carefully chosen with a restriction in speakers to allow clarity. The aim was to provide context rather than representative debate and that was reflected in the rest of the feedback. We can therefore conclude that restricted selection of speakers was appropriate to allow for clear debate and this should be left to the discretion of the person overseeing the project - not everything needs to be sent to Council or a Standing Committee.

If anyone wishes to see me receive a 'bloody roasting' then I would invite them to write a formal complaint to council, as I think Phil's presence is irrelevant.

**Recommendation:** If Council members wish to hold debates and hustings then P&I will endeavour to help host them in any way possible. Earlier and clearer communication should be aimed for.

### **What sort of content would you want in future?**

Here are a list of common ideas in the responses:

More of the same! I.e. How the BCA works

Conservation - What can the average caver do?

What is the Caver Coaching Scheme?

What expeditions are coming up and how to get involved?

History of the BCA/NCA

History of Descent the magazine or BCRA, CRG and the like.

What are rescue teams currently experiencing issues with?

How can we make caving more diverse?

What are the hoops to jump through to take u18s caving?

Good places for caving holidays

Update on the legal challenge regards crow.

**Recommendation:** Cavers are eager to engage with BCA as a gateway to all topics caving. Given the often stated aim of the 'One Stop Shop', this seems like an ideal opportunity to support many institutions and produce a podcast that brings cavers together.

## Summary of Recommendations

Generally positive feedback with many helpful suggestions and good ideas we will try to take forward. Hopefully clear guidance can be drafted to ensure that people feel there is a system and it is clear that we need to improve our communication with our membership.

**Recommendation 1:** Bring in more people with a background in club administration so that the content is more practical. Also reformat the question so that people do not feel like they are accusing bias if they feel something has been overlooked so that we can elicit more feedback like this in future.

**Recommendation 2:** Use timestamps

**Recommendation 3:** Record as if no visual component is going to be added.

**Recommendation 4:** If Council members wish to hold debates and hustings then P&I will endeavour to help host them in any way possible. Earlier and clearer communication should be aimed for.

**Recommendation 5:** Cavers are eager to engage with BCA as a gateway to all topics caving. Given the often stated aim of the 'One Stop Shop', this seems like an ideal opportunity to support many institutions and produce a podcast that brings cavers together.