



# Feb 2021 Minutes

1) Introduction to the meeting by Josh White (Chair of meeting). Update on changes in the BCA, and also set out that these meetings should be an update on what each of the individual smaller groups are working on, and shouldn't be a place to deal with the minute details. This should keep the meetings efficient and retain contributors interest by not getting drawn out.

2) Further discussions from last minutes

I. Girlguiding UK - Ciaran Thompson-Hayes' report on the existing state of caving in girlguiding. The perfect end result would be that Girlguiding UK recognises the scout association caving permits even on trips with no scouts present. The feeling is this may be an insurance issue, but definitely an avenue worth exploring.

II. Diversity - Lisa Crow provided an update on plans for diversity. JW owned up to causing a minor stir on UKCaving forums. JW is currently searching out the BCA equality and diversity policy. This should be a key part of youth and development.

III. National Youth Caving Team - JW set out a proposed plan for getting under 18s into caving and then retaining them in regular caving with clubs. The two key components of this are regular regional try caving events aimed at youth and run by clubs, and a national forum for youth members to interact and have a sense of youth cohesion once they have been encouraged to join the clubs. Further planning of this is required, and details will be shared within the working groups facebook group.

3) Liverpool University Potholing Club - update on the latest state of play with this, and the solution that we've come up with. Liverpool University Union consider caving high risk and so will not allow the club to exist. An underground appreciation society will be set up through the union that will allow access to students through freshers fairs. The club will continue as a BCA club, and the underground appreciation society will be able to point members towards the BCA club, allowing them to go caving utilising the BCA Public Liability insurance. Dan Wyatt (not present) was able to get involved in this project, and anyone who wants to get involved and learns things was encouraged to by JW.

4) Scout Caving - Paul Wilman (National Caving SASU head) provided an update on scouting, and how he doesn't envisage major issues with getting scout caving back up to speed again. JW suggested that youth and development should do more to show off the work that is being done to encourage young people into caving, as it was highlighted during a project with the University of West of England, that there is little evidence of what we do. Rostam Namaghi suggested that any suitable articles could be published on the BCA website and provide a good news story. JW and PW to pick up separately.

5) Family caving/Youth club caving document - Imo Furlong (not present) is currently reviewing the safeguarding documentation available, and considering how this can be condensed into a less daunting, but still equally useful document, that can be circulated to clubs to encourage them to take the steps to allow under 18s to join the clubs. This will play a key role in point 2 II.

6) CHECC update - Jennifer Ryder (CHECC president) provided an update on the latest CHECC delegate's meeting.

I. Dave Rose had suggested by email that in light of the latest covid planning the BCA/CHECC week long summer caving event (suggested by ex-BCA chair Phil Rowsell, and taken on by new BCA chair Russell Myers). RW, LC, JR all agreed that this they don't think this event would be the best thing to get universities up and running again

II. RW to continue the good work he's done in setting up localised training events, and Y+D budget will be available for use to ensure the standard of university training and skills remains high despite the covid interruption

III. CHECC Yoga sessions have been set up supported by BCA. RW to provide a youtube link that will be posted up on BCA website so that afterwards the wider BCA membership will have access to the sessions.

7) BMC Welcome back to climbing talk - Mark Richards (not present) made some notes, and both LC and RW attended the webinar.

8) Website update - Sally Morris confirmed that her and MR were reviewing the website content, and are preparing information to pad out the youth and development pages.

9) AOB

I. JW hopes to have two more meetings of this group prior to the next BCA AGM in October 2020. Planned dates will be circulated shortly, to allow members of the group to plan ahead.

II. RN encouraged the group to 'lead the way' in terms of the caving recovery strategy, even outside of the youth side of things.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 26 May 2020, and will be over zoom, with the same plan, keep it brief. This meeting lasted around 45 minutes (including exchanging pleasantries), and I would expect future meetings to be about the same.