

Youth & Development
Josh White
11 October 2020



Youth & Development Group

2020 BCA AGM report

This is a very important time for Youth and Development in the BCA, with Covid and its related distancing restrictions having the potential to decimate youth caving, in particular universities.

A major part of my job for the next year will be to assist CHECC in guiding universities through these restrictions. A budget was agreed to run some small regional events aimed at those who would be doing training at the university clubs, to give them the skills and confidence to coach those within their clubs. The first of these has not occurred however updated Covid ruling means that an event of this scale will not be able to occur again until the ruling changes. We are looking at the potential to arrange club by club training events in place of these. CHECC are doing some great work in planning for weekends to be able to continue, mainly focussed around the issues that we know university clubs are having; transport, kit usage and accommodation. Further updates on these issues will go to council as this landscape develops.

A national youth caving team is in the early stages of development, with a view to getting volunteer members in each main caving region of the UK to arrange one weekend every 4 months for an under 18 caving team. This will require potentially a large number of volunteers who would also need to be LCMLA qualified. Various safeguarding issues will need to be sorted also, for instance DBS checks and accommodation requirements.

We're also looking to enable other youth groups other than scouting, such as the Guide association and schools, to have an accessible route into caving, and have several people keen to take negotiations on.

Several joint projects have been kickstarted between P&I and Y&D. One is a document to be handed out to QMC to distribute to caving instructors to pass on to customers to encourage them to take up caving long term by joining a club or similar. Another document or set of documents is for existing clubs to guide them through what they need to do in order to take young people caving. The final project is one of development of diversity in the BCA. First a study of the membership of BCA would need to be done, to take a look at ethnicity, sexuality and disabilities, in order to identify what the BCA is doing well and what the BCA can do better. Several volunteers have come forwards with some bright ideas of how we can develop the diversity of cavers in the UK.