



Youth & Development Report

August 2020 BCA council meeting

The first month has been busy, building up the working group that had reduced in size of a period of years to a small team of dedicated volunteers. There are now over a dozen members of the working group, looking to actively contribute to ongoing projects, from a range of backgrounds: scouting, club caving, university caving and commercial; and covering most caving regions within the UK.

I've summarised my ongoing plans below:

- University caving coach training weekends put on by CHECC. Two weekends aimed at training the coaches to enable them to pass on their skills to the younger members of the club. This is to try and counteract the loss of training from the older members of the club due to the enforced Covid 19 break. A budget of £1500 has been asked for this project.
- Discussions with the Guide Association to restart caving badges, and to recognise the Scout caving permits, to open another avenue for young people caving.
- National Youth Caving Team. I am looking to develop this idea, trying to encourage clubs to adopt the caving team for one weekend every 4 months, allowing the young people to experience caving in all four main caving region. This idea is in the early stages of development, and I'll be working with Chris Boardman to ensure that there are no safeguarding issues.
- School caving. A new member of the YDWG is a teacher who has been running caving trips for their school, and I think schools have been under-utilised as sources of potential cavers, so I'd like to investigate why this may be.
- The Yorkshire Dales Guides Adventure Academy has recently launched, funded partially by the BCA and matched funding from the 'Stories of Stone' project. I've been in conversation with Steph Dwyer regarding this, to ensure that coming out the back end of Covid the project is still a success.