



# Youth & Development Report

## 2022 Round up

### CHECC

University caving looks to be in a surprisingly strong position considering the amount of time spent unable to cave combined with senior members graduating, which without serious commitment from CHECC and some particularly keen freshers could have resulted in a potential crisis for caving in this sector.

This year was CHECC's 20th, and in November the national CHECC event happened. Fantastic connections were made, some superb training offered and the committee has undergone its annual refresh of new members who I met with in December to discuss plans for the coming year and how BCA can assist.

Through huge efforts from a couple of individuals and the generosity of the Wessex, BCA were able to support the creation of a suitable SRT training venue at CHECC.

Over the pandemic several universities highlighted that they were struggling with replacing kit that had deteriorated during covid, but had not had the income to balance this. Three regional stores have been created containing kit to be borrowed by university clubs. Suitable systems are being put in place to ensure this kit is looked after. My thanks go to the Red Rose Caving and Potholing Club, Wessex Caving Club and Bangor Student Caving Club for accommodating these stores.

In total Y&D spent £5,456 on university caving including £1,598 on kit loan schemes, £1,053 on training events and £2,805 on the regional caving stores

## Website Development

The Youth & Development group continue to look to generate content for the BCA website, however discussions have been had about the need to be able to raise the profile further through proper social media management in order to be able to expand the breadth of people that caving can reach.

The Newtocaving website is now managed by someone within Youth & Development, and we're looking to use this to act as a hub for 'experience caving' weekends. It's refreshing

to see clubs utilising CNCC's website, and I hope that the group can look to get involved with these to ensure these are as accessible as possible.

## International Congress of Speleology Grants

Two grants of £500 were offered to university clubs to attend this congress. Our intention is to have the grants running again for the next congress.

## Scout Caving

Scout caving is now up and running across the UK, and the chair of the National Caving Scout Activity Support Unit is an active member of this group.

## Charterhouse Caving Age Restrictions

This year, there was finally movement on Charterhouse Caving Clubs age restrictions, albeit with restrictions remaining in place for some obscure reasons. The group is encouraged by the efforts from many in this region to come to this win, and are aware that this is an ongoing process.

## Diversity & Inclusion

The group continue to be the instigators for change within BCA for diversity and inclusion issues, with further proposals and recommendations coming from this group to BCA around membership forms.

With the previous Publications and Information officer leaving his role during 2022, this group believes that steps should be taken to ensure that the work that was being done regarding regular demographic surveys continues.

## The Future

The convener of this group intends to stand down from this role with effect from the 2023 AGM, but intends to remain a member of the group. He is preparing adequate handover notes and prep for the predecessor.

Some members of this group are in discussions with counterparts around Europe to discuss a European Youth Caving Event. Updates will be provided to council as and when they are relevant.

Plans are underway for this group to assist CHECC in the training at the Northern and Southern CHECC conferences and other training events.