

For Election as Secretary for 3 years (2024-2027)

Allan Richardson (00022) – incumbent 2021-2024

Proposed by Russell Myers (00708)

Seconded by Jenny Potts (00062)

Election Statement

I was introduced to the underground world via mine exploration, exploring the old mines and looking for minerals in the Northern Pennines and Lake District, after a year or two of this I went to College where I was told that due to my experience, I was now in charge of the caving section, having never been down a cave. However many years of underground exploration in different parts of the World, have given me the opportunity to gain a great deal of experience in the world of caving and mine exploring. I wish to continue to give back to the sport the enjoyment and experience that I have gained over the years.

I was elected Secretary three years ago after being initially co-opted to fill the vacancy, it is an interesting post to occupy, as you are normally the first point of contact for the BCA. I am regularly contacted by a wide range of people and organisations, many of whom are cavers but not all. We are seen by the public as the go to organisation for all things underground, the requests vary from the mundane to the downright bizarre, but all have to be handled with tact and diplomacy, it helps that I have been a caver for more years than I care to remember, and that along the way I have made many contacts both at home and abroad.

So apart from carrying out the necessary meeting administration I have been involved in other BCA activities, as a member of the Executive I have taken part in the decision making process on a range of matters, one of the most recent was to be involved in the discussion and signing off on the “Just Go” membership system, this system will make the life of the Membership Secretary much easier. It will also enable us to more easily contact the membership, currently this is a problem which we have been trying to solve, as communication with our members is paramount.

You may have noticed a lack of communication from BCA over the past year, as up until just recently we have had neither an IT Convener or Treasurer. Previously the Minutes of BCA meetings were published in a timely fashion on the BCA Website, as well as being circulated to all the Regional Bodies as required. A number of people said that they could access the website and publish details of meetings etc, when it came to it, they were unable to. We were able to get some information onto the website but this was not a permanent solution. This lack of BCA Officers was not for want of trying, a number of people were approached, the positions were advertised etc. The problem has recently been solved as we now have an IT Convener and a Treasurer.

I would like to carry on as Secretary, as I believe in giving back to the sport that which I have enjoyed for so long.

Allan Richardson