

NATIONAL CAVING ASSOCIATION / BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Conjoint Meeting of NCA / BCA National Councils on 20th March 2004 Held at the Baptist Church Hall, Alvechurch.

Mick Day (MD)	NCA & BCA Chairman
Eddy Hill (EH)	NCA & BCA Secretary
Bob Mehew (BM)	NCA & BCA Treasurer
Elsie Little (EL)	NCA & BCA Conservation & Access Officer
Andrew Pryke (AP)	NCA & BCA Equipment & Techniques Officer DCUC Rep
Dave Judson (DJ)	NCA & BCA Legal & Insurance Officer; BCRA Rep
Les Williams (LW)	NCA & BCA Publications and Information Officer, NCA & BCA Web Master
David Cooke (DC)	NCA & BCA National Cave Registry Coordinator, NCA Trustee, CSCC Rep to NCA & BCA
Jenny Potts (JP)	NCA Speleoscene Editor, NCA Trustee, DCA Rep to NCA & BCA
Nick Williams (NW)	BCA Insurance Manager, NCA Trustee
Owen Clarke (OC)	NCA & BCA Club Representative
Chris Broome (CB)	NCA & BCA Club Representative
Clarke Friend (CF)	NCA & BCA Radon Working Party
Sue Mabbett (SM)	CCC Rep to NCA & BCA
Glenn Jones (GJ)	CNCC Rep to NCA & BCA
Steve Holding (SH)	NAMHO Rep to NCA & BCA
Maurice Febry (MF)	Observer
Jonathon Roberts (JR)	Observer
Steve Froude (SF)	Observer

NB Posts are as held at the end of the Council meeting

The meeting started at 4.00 pm

1) Chairman's Welcome and Address

MD welcomed everybody to the proceedings and commented on the complexity of the meeting as decisions would have to be made both under the banners of NCA and BCA.

2) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Idris Williams, NCA & BCA Training Officer.

3) Minutes of the NCA National Council Meeting of 10th January 2004

These were taken as read and accepted as a true and correct record

4) Matters Arising from the Minutes of NCA Council Meeting 10th January 2004

It was proposed and agreed that these should be deferred for discussion at the next Council meeting.

5) NCA / BCA Chairman's Report

MD has continued to perform his duties as required and has nothing specific to report besides this.

6) Retiring NCA / BCA Secretary's Report

JP stated she had delivered her reports at the NCA AGM and BCA ISGM and had nothing further to report.

7) NCA / BCA Treasurer's Report

BM stated that he had nothing further to report.

8) Matters Arising From 2004 NCA AGM Requiring Council's Attention

MD agreed to write to BCRA Council empowering them to take appropriate action on behalf of NCA to ensure that the UKCCEF is correctly managed and actively promoted.

Action MD

9) Matters Arising From 2004 BCA ISGM Requiring Council's Attention

- a) A sequence for the election of Officers, Convenors and Club Reps, in line with BCA Constitution points 6.1 and 6.3, was proposed (see Annex 1) by JP, seconded by BM and accepted.
- b) JP noted that Clause 14.9 of BCA Constitution states "The post of Council Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall be taken in the first instance by those persons holding the equivalent posts in the National Caving Association. The Executive shall initiate a ballot for these posts after the initial meeting of the National Council". MD argued the post of Secretary, having been elected on 20th March 2004 uncontested, did not require re-election. This was agreed. It was further agreed that openings for the posts of Chairman and Treasurer would be publicised only on the website. Nominations are to be in by the October meeting of Council with the ballot to take place at the following meeting.

10) Matters Arising From 2004 NCA AGM Requiring Convenor's Attention

No matters arising.

11) Any Other Matters Arising From The 2004 NCA AGM

No matters arising

12) Any Other Matters Arising From The 2004 BCA ISGM

No matters arising

13) Provisional Dates (And Venues) For Future Meetings For Confirmation

a) NCA & BCA Council Meetings

It was agreed that they should be held at Alvechurch Baptist Church Hall, Alvechurch on 22nd May 2004, 9th October 2004, 8th January 2005 and 12th March 2005.

b) NCA AGM

To be held at Alvechurch Baptist Church Hall, Alvechurch on 12th March 2005

c) BCA AGM

To be held at The Alvechurch Baptist Church Hall, Alvechurch on 12th March 2005

d) Other NCA/BCA Meetings

No other dates decided.

BM agreed to write to book the dates.

Action BM

14) Appointment of NCA International Representatives

Andy Eavis and Nick Williams were appointed as International representatives and supported for attendance at UIS and FSEU meetings.

15) Appointment of Convenor of NCA & BCA Radon WP

Clarke Friend was re-appointed in this role. Clarke informed Council that he has been asked to write a chapter on the physics of Radon for the new publication by Graham Proudlove on 'Cave Science Sources'

16) Appointment of Editor, NCA SPELEOScene /& BCA "Son of SPELEOScene"

- a) Jenny Potts to remain editor until new appointment can be found. She explained that although publications should only go to members of BCA, there is a backlog of subscribers who should receive SPELEOScene. Jenny proposes that these receive the next (and last) issue of SPELEOScene and that we consider how to treat those who have paid for a series of issues not yet received. After this last issue of SPELEOScene is sent free to a few of the shop outlets, there will be no more free issues through shops so only those copies that have been sold will be produced.

Action JP

- b) Dave Judson is to introduce a possible new editor for "Son of SPELEOScene".

Action DJ

- c) Council agrees that if possible, "Son of SPELEOScene" should remain a bimonthly publication.

17) Appointment of NCA & BCA National Cave Registry Coordinator

Council agreed Dave Cooke to continue in post.

18) Appointment of NCA & BCA Webmaster

Council agreed Les Williams to continue in post.

19) Ratification of Ghar Parau Foundation Grant Recommendations

A list of Ghar Parau Foundation Grant Recommendations was circulated to Council with the Agenda (see Annex 2). Recommendations, as listed, were ratified by Council, with one abstention.

20) Any Other Business

- a) BM proposed that Hub should continue its work so as to facilitate the progress of BCA Phase 3. Seconded by JP. This was agreed.
- b) NW sought empowerment to negotiate on behalf of BCA/NCA with individual(s) in order to appoint someone as membership/insurance administrator. BM expressed a concern that NW would commit BCA/NCA to an expenditure without Council endorsement. NW stated that he required independence in order to be able to negotiate but agreed to return to Council for endorsement. The motion to so empower NW was proposed by JP and seconded by CF and agreed.
- c) BM Proposed that new Secretary (Eddy Hill) be made an accounts signatory for BCA. The motion was proposed by NW and seconded by GJ and agreed.
- d) LW reminded all officers that he intended to create web site pages for each committee which would be the responsibility of the chairman. He sought information from Chairmen to support their pages.

Action All Chairmen

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 5pm.

Eddy Hill
20th March 2004

Annex 1 - NCA Sequence for nomination and election of Officers, Convenors & Club Reps Plus Possible Continuation as Sequence for BCA

The current (2000) NCA Constitution in section 6.2 states how the election terms shall operate for officers/convenors/club reps. Basically, NCA elects one third of posts every year, to serve for 3 years; re-election allowed for a maximum of 3 consecutive terms. Club reps. are elected each year to serve for 1 year. (Before 2000 there was no provision to elect club reps. but they were co-opted.)

The BCA Constitution goes for a similar system of officers and convenors serving for 3 years with 1/3 elected each year and 4 Club and 4 Individual Reps. serving for 2 years with 112 elected each year. (See BCA Constitution 6.1 and 6.3)

Notes on the NCA Procedures:

1. It was recommended by the NCA Structure Committee in 1995 when the system of 3-year terms on a rolling programme was set up that, in the event a post became vacant or that no-one was nominated, the following year nominations would be sought to fill the post for the remaining X years of the 3-year term. These extra elections are indicated by **** (Rem. x yrs.)**
2. The NCA Structure Committee agreed on 9 September 1995 that, to start the sequence going, that some posts would be elected to serve for either 1 year or 2 years in the first instance - this was done in 1996. The sequence to follow 1996 was proposed by the Structure Committee on 5 July 1996 and accepted by NCA Council on 12 July 1996.
3. Club Reps. were co-opted from 1996 onwards until there was official provision in the constitution (2000 amendment) for them to be nominated and elected. In some years there was no nomination for a post and it was left vacant (e.g. Publications & Information in 1999).

Year	Officer(s) 1 Convenors / Club Reps. Elected
1999	Treasurer (3 yrs.) Equip. (3 yrs.), Pubs. & Inf. (3 yrs. No nomination/election) 2 Club reps co-opted.
2000	Chairman (3 yrs.) Training (3 yrs. No nomination/election?) Pubs. & Inf. ** (Rem. 2 yrs.) 2 Club reps co-opted.
2001	Secretary (3 yrs.) Cons. & Access (3 yrs.), Legal & Insurance (3 yrs) Training ** (Rem. 2 yrs.) No nomination/election) 2 Club Reps.
2002	Treasurer (3 yrs.) Secretary ** (Rem. 2 years) Equip. (3 yrs.), Pubs & Inf. (3 yrs, No nomination/election), Training ** (Rem. 1 year) Cons. & Access ** (Rem. 2 years) 2 Club Reps.

2003 Chairman (3 yrs) Secretary ** (*Rem. 1 year*)
Training (3 yrs)
Pubs. & Inf. ** (*Rem. 2 years*)
2 Club Reps.

2004 Secretary (3 yrs.) Legal & Insurance (3 Yrs)
Cons. & Access (3 yrs.), Equit. ** (*Rem. 1 year.*)
Pubs. & Irif. ** (*Rem. 1 year*)
2 Club Reps.

FROM BCA AGM IN 2005 - SUGGESTED POSSIBLE SEQUENCE

2005 Treasurer (3 yrs) (Plus Chairman 1 yr. and Sec. 2 yrs.)
Equip. (3 yrs.), Pubs. & Inf. (3 yrs.)
4 Club Reps. 4 Indiv. Reps.? (Plus Training 1 yr.; C&A and L&I 2 yrs.)

2006 Chairman (3 yrs.)
Training (3 Yrs.)
2 Club Reps. 2 Indiv. Reps.

2007 Secretary (3 yrs.) Legal & Insurance (3 yrs.)
Cons. & Access (3 yrs.)
2 Club Reps. 2 Indiv. Reps.

Updated by J.E.Potts, 11/03/2004

Annex 2 Recommendations from Ghar Parau Foundation for Awards to Expeditions in 2004

There were seven applications received this round and grants have been recommended to NCA:-

<u>1-1</u>	<u>SPAIN Matienzo 2004</u> (Juan Corrin)	July - August
	Continued cave and surface exploration, survey and ongoing scientific research in this extensive limestone area of N W Spain.	
		£ 400
<u>1-2</u>	<u>SPAIN Yega de Ario 2004</u> (OUCC) (Paul Garver)	July - August
	The deep and testing explorations of previous years will be followed up and extended.	
		£ 500
<u>1-3</u>	<u>AUSTRIA Totesgebirge 2003</u> (CUCC) (David Loeffler)	July - August
	Better weather conditions than usual led to a successful expedition With over 1.9km of new passage found and surveyed in 2003. Still much more to do in this area.	
		£ 500
<u>1-4</u>	<u>PERU Sima Pumacocha 2004</u> (Peter MacNab)	August- September
	Follow-up to successful ventures 2001-2003, with one discovery currently at -640m, and other promising leads to follow up.	
		£ 1,000
<u>1-6</u>	<u>CHINA Hong Meigui, Yunnan 2004</u> (Hilary Greaves)	July - August
	Continuation of work started in 2001 in a relatively new area of the S W China karst	
		£ 1,000
<u>1-7</u>	<u>CHINA Hong Meigui Tian Xing Expedition 2004</u> (Erin Lynch/Duncan Collis)	September - October
	An exciting area with lots of depth potential.	
		£ 1,000

TOTAL OF SPORTS COUNCIL GRANTS RECOMMENDED THIS ROUND: £4,400.00

NB 1-5 is funded from other resources.