

# BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION



## BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Baptist Church Hall, Alvechurch, Worcestershire

10.30 am, Saturday, 25 March 2006

Present:

Mick Day (MD)	BCA Chairman
Jonathan Roberts (JR)	BCA Treasurer
Paula Grgich-Warke (PGW)	BCA Honorary Secretary
Elsie Little (EL)	BCA Conservation & Access Officer
Idris Williams (ID)	BCA Training Officer
David Judson (DJ)	Legal & Insurance Officer/BCRA Representative
Les Williams (LW)	Publications and Information Officer/WCC
Bob Mehew (BM)	Rope Testing Officer
Clark Friend (CF)	BCA Convenor, Radon Working Party/SWCC
Sue Mabbett (SM)	Cambrian Caving Council Representative
Jenny Potts (JP)	Derbyshire Caving Association Representative/OCC
David Cooke (DC)	Club Representative, Wessex Caving Club
Emma Porter (EP)	Individual Member Representative
Glenn Jones (GJ)	CNCC
Steve King (SK)	CSCC
Owen Clarke (OC)	Council Club Rep/Individual Member
Andy Pryke (AP)	BCA Equipment Officer
Patrick Hall (PH)	South Wales CC/Individual Member
Steve Holding (SH)	NAMHO/Individual Member
Boyd Potts (BP)	OCC/Individual Member
David Jean (DJ)	PCG
Simon Froude (SF)	Bradford PC/Individual Member
Alan Tate (AT)	YSS/Individual Member
Steve Whitlock (SW)	Individual Member
Trevor Faulkner (TF)	Individual Member

1. Chairman's welcome: introductions and procedures  
All those present introduced themselves by name and role.

MD noted that there were difficulties in obtaining membership cards for many of those present, therefore proof of representation of some other form was acceptable. He asked those representatives to notify JP when signing in of their affiliation.

2. Apologies for absence – Chris Broome, Nick Williams, James Cochrane

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## 3. Applications for Membership:

- Group Members (clubs, regional councils, national bodies, CRO's, etc.)
- Direct Individual Members

There is no record of applications to date; however, there has been a great deal of difficulty in assessing the membership situation due to a lack of access to the existing database, as well as the recent resignation of the membership secretary. Recruitment for this post is underway, and an improvement in the process is anticipated.

## 4. Minutes of the 2005 AGM

PH expressed concerns about the distribution of the AGM minutes. A copy was not distributed prior to the meeting. This will be done in the future, as well as a copy being available on the web page as soon as the minutes are finalized. Additionally, a summary of the AGM minutes will be published in the newsletter with instructions to view the complete document on the web page.

4a MOTION: JP proposed that the minutes be accepted as read, and that the Chairman sign them as a true and correct record. Included in this were the final minutes of the NCA AGM. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by OC and passed unanimously.

## 5. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2005 AGM

Annual Reports

Report on/Action by

## 6. Chairman's Report

Mick Day

A printed copy was circulated at the meeting and is attached for purposes of completeness (see Appendix A) A discussion of funding from Sport England/UK Sport focused on recognised sports, priority sports, recognised national bodies and development sports. SM offered that this has recently been similarly handled by the Welsh Assembly which unfortunately still resulted in funding cuts for caving. MD noted Chris Howe's report in the February issue of Descent magazine. General discussion ensued regarding the need to streamline the organisation to ensure continued financial viability whilst still promoting the sport, science and safe caving.

MOTION: BM proposed that the report be accepted. DJ 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion which was passed unanimously.

## 7. Honorary Secretary's Report

Paula Grgich-Warke

No written report was provided. It was noted that the secretary encountered great difficulties this year in obtaining information regarding matters of procedure, membership information, and encountered a general lack of response when issues arose

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requiring input from board members. This has made continuity of communication very challenging. The manual of operations was discussed as crucial to preventing these difficulties in the future.

MOTION: JP proposed that the report be accepted. LW 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion which was passed unanimously.

8. Report from Legal and Insurance Committee Dave Judson  
No written report was provided. It was noted that the new copy of the legal & insurance handbook was now available. BM suggested that a draft of agenda topics should be discussed prior to the proposed L&I committee meeting.

MOTION: PH proposed that the report be accepted. BP 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion which was passed unanimously.

9. Report from BCA Webmaster Les Williams  
A report was received and is attached as Appendix B for clarity. The report was distributed for review. The online membership database was briefly discussed. LW continues to work with Peter Wilton Jones to establish this in the future. BM noted that there remains £523.76 in outstanding income for 2005. LW indicated that this was due to slow invoicing, but is working towards completing this shortly. LW will provide costing spread sheet to show how expenses and costs are distributed to show "value for money"

MOTION: BP proposed that the report be accepted. DJ 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion which was passed unanimously.

10. Honorary Treasurer's Report Jonathan Roberts  
A set of accounts for the financial status of BCA as of December 2005 was distributed and discussed. It is attached as Appendix C for clarity. JR expressed his gratitude to BM for his willingness to carry out financial work on behalf of BCA during JR's extended recuperation. According to these reports, the new organisation is now financially stable. There is a surplus of funds directly resulting from our lack of expenditure during 2005. This was attributed to the fact that the organization has been very cautious and conservative in spending, coupled with a lack of action during the transition. The surplus suggests that we can be more financially independent from government grants which will be in short supply in the future.  
Specific items of expenditure were detailed including how we have spent these monies. PH suggested that we undertake a review of the financial reporting model so that information is presented more clearly in the future. He also recommended establishing a system of budget planning and costings in order to establish accounting procedures for the coming years.  
JR has indicated that due to numerous conflicting demands, he wishes to step down, but will carry on until a suitable successor can be found.

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MOTION: SW proposed that the report be accepted subject to the satisfactory approval and acceptance of Graham Wright as the appointed auditor. JP 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion which was passed unanimously

11. Report from Radon Working Party Clark Friend  
A report was received and is attached as Appendix D for clarity. The updated guidance has been published. CF has asked if this can be posted on the web as a PDF download where BCA retains the copyright. LW will look into this.

MOTION: AP proposed that the report be accepted. JP 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion which was passed unanimously.

12. Report from International Representative Andy Eavis  
NO report received
13. Report from Conservation and Access Committee Elsie Little  
A report was received and is attached as Appendix E for clarity. EL expressed thanks for all those in conservation & access, and outlined several areas of focus for the coming year. She requested clarification on how C&A funds are distributed to the regions and clubs as there are numerous projects awaiting funding. MD and BM assured that funding is available and could be allocated upon request. EL added that she is looking to populate the C&A section of the BCA web page soon.

MOTION: PGW proposed that the report be accepted. JP 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion which was passed unanimously.

14. Report from Equipment Committee Andy Pryke/Bob Mehew  
No written report was received. AP has been working with the BMC on procedures for anchor placement and inspection as the BMC currently have no formal protocol or accounting measures in place. It seems we have moved this forward and provided best practice for another organization. AP is working on building the website which includes a great deal of information on eco anchors, including CNCC data as well as the Petzl guides. There is also a link on the BCA web site to a Petzl programme for equipment tracking. He will be coordinating an Equipment committee meeting in the coming months in order to review the draft fixed aid policy.

BM also provided a rope testing report which has been included as Appendix F for clarity. He has requested information on the available budget for testing new anchors and equipment. Les Sykes has been requested to supply info on equipment costs in order to establish a budget projection.

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SK said that the CSCC had concerns over the way in which the bolt placement and inspection side of the Equipment portfolio was currently arranged. MD confirmed that he had received a letter from the CSCC on this issue. SK emphasised that this was not a criticism of Les Sykes or AP, only of the current arrangements; whereby there was no independent, easily accessible, record of who had been trained, and no formal certification of the trained bolters. Consequently bolters were unwilling to provide any such certification to those that THEY trained themselves. Others present noted that only Les Sykes was able to train

MOTION: GJ proposed that both the reports from AP and BM be accepted. AT 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion which was passed unanimously.

15. Report from Training Committee Idris Williams  
A report was received and is attached as Appendix G for clarity. IW has expressed concerns regarding a lack of council meetings to deal with training issues. Also there has been a lack of representation from Devon & Cornwall, as well as the Southern Council. BM recommended that some recreational cavers should be appointed to balance the group as now most representatives are professional cavers. The Registration fees for both LCMLA and CIC schemes have been increased (£35-40). The LCMLA scheme represents the main training income apart from grants; therefore this will have to bear the brunt of the grant loss in the future with a fee increase of as much as 50% possible.

MOTION: BP proposed that the report be accepted. JP 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion which was passed unanimously.

16. Report from Publications & Info Committee Les Williams  
A report was received and is attached as Appendix H for clarity. LW has been archiving all copies of BCA publications throughout the year, and has been working with several committees to complete publications including the CIC Handbook and Legal Aspects Underground. DJ is working on the new handbook and recommends it to be updated annually as it is a tangible member benefit with the cost covered by the subscription fee. DJ has asked for any changes for the 2006 publication to be made directly so the document can be printed and distributed. A discussion regarding availability of BCA publications ensued, including the possibility of making all documents available as a PDF download, with some cost associated with certain publications. The consensus was that BCA should have a one stop shop for obtaining publications that is seamless and straightforward. This will be improved throughout the coming year as LW looks into the feasibility of online payments

MOTION: SK proposed that the report be accepted. JP 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion which was passed unanimously.

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17. Report from National Cave Register Co-ordinator David Cooke  
No written report was provided. DC cited a presentation by Harry Pier at Hidden Earth 2005 where he detailed a surveying database that ties in with our cave register. DC now has all the technology in place to put the database. He is in the process of coding the project which should be up and running soon.

MOTION: OC proposed that the report be accepted. SK 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion which was passed unanimously.

18. Invited reports from Regional Councils
- CCC - Affiliations were not provided last year so funding was a problem. In the future this needs to be addressed, as well as the availability of club membership list to regions. It is hoped that the web-based database will resolve this issue in the future. CCC obtains grants from the Sports Council separate from the rest of the country and this lack of information causes difficulty in reporting accurately.
- CNCC – LS has expressed deep concerns that requested information isn't forthcoming from the membership secretary. He emphasised the need to improve the responsibilities of the post and ensure that the future post holder can meet these responsibilities. He also noted that this transition time was an excellent opportunity to make sure that our systems are appropriately updated to resolve the ongoing membership problems. MD will liaise with NW to ensure that he understands the severity of the situation and it is adequately addressed in hiring on a new administrative assistant. PH has offered to work towards evaluating the existing system in order to put together a list of recommendations to resolve this issue.
- DCA - JP tabled DCA's printed Annual Report for 2005
- CSCC – SK provided a written report which is attached as Appendix I for clarity. This was discussed under item 14 above.
- UKCCEF – An issue regarding their constitution refers specifically to NCA, not BCA. However, JP has noted that should any change to the constitution be required, BCA would, as the replacement for NCA, be able to address these changes. EL will look towards getting a copy of the draft changes to the constitution to be reviewed at the next BCA Council meeting.

19. Election of National Council Members
- Chairman (To serve 3-year term) – MD was nominated to continue in this post and ran unopposed.
  - Training Officer & Convener (To serve for a term of 3 year) – IW will carry on as there were no nominations received.

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- Club Representatives (2 posts to serve for a term of 2 years each) – OC & BP were nominated for Club Representative and were elected unopposed.
- Individual Reps (2 posts to serve for a term of 2 years each) EP & SF have agreed to continue. The two remaining vacancies did not receive any nominations.

## 20. Motions relating to the Constitution/matters of policy

- Reminder of actions following the AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2005. Section 14.17 of the Constitution of the British Caving Association states "This whole section (Section 14) shall be deleted from the constitution immediately following the first Annual General Meeting. This has now formally been deleted, LW will delete from website.
- "In accordance with a motion passed at the BCRA AGM held at Hidden Earth on 24 September 2005 (item 13.1 in the draft minutes), subsequent Annual General Meetings of BCA will be held at the Hidden Earth Conference every year".

TF proposed this motion which was taken under consideration by the members present. Concerns were raised that the amount of time required for the AGM (approximately ½ day) would unduly take up time and space at Hidden Earth, and would exclude attendance from those who were not attending HE or were otherwise occupied by conflicting HE events. Currently the BCA constitution stipulates the AGM will take place in March or "as soon as practicable thereafter" so a constitutional amendment would be required for this change. An increased presence at HE was recommended, including a BCA Q&A forum instead.

The motion was brought to vote, with one vote in favour, and the remaining votes opposed. There were no abstentions. The motion was not passed.

## 21. Other Motions

None notified by due date so none may be taken

## 22. Appointment of Auditor

We have not confirmed the availability of the auditor for future years, so we cannot appoint one at this time. The appointment of the auditor is deferred to a future council. BM will ask the current auditor if he wishes to continue.

## 23. Date of the next Annual General Meeting

24 March 2007 at 10:30 am to be held at Alvechurch Church Hall, Alvechurch

## 24. Any other business

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- Financial conversion from NCA to BCA accounts – BM – all except one account has been closed in order to deal with any cheques that came in until formally turned over.
- Update on progress of dissolving NCA – The only remaining formalities of NCA are the existing open accounts. For all intents and purposes, any business or proposal is now conducted under the assertion that any reference to NCA is now taken as a reference to BCA.
- Support in principle for UIS bid for 2009 – LW enquired as to whether or not BCA was interested in supporting a bid for this prestigious conference to be held in the UK. Producing a proposal would require some financial investment, and it would require a great deal of volunteer effort to run the event. BM suggested that this be made as a formal motion for the June council meeting. LW will look into this further.
- MOTION: JR proposed that BCA explore the bid process further. JP 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion which passed unanimous.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 13:52

Recorded by Paula Grgich-Warke, Honorary Secretary, BCA

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## Appendix A

### Chairman's Annual Report 2005

This year has been especially trying for BCA. Our Treasurer, Jonathon Roberts, suffered a serious motor accident which has severely limited his participation, and our new secretary, Paula Grgich-Warke, has recently been handicapped by illness. This at a time when the future relationship of BCA with BCRA and its membership were to be resolved and the integration of the Treasurer's work with that of Constituent Body Treasurers needs to be refined. The difficulties inherent in administering BCA's membership subscription and Insurance Scheme, with its dependency on a tremendous workload over the New Year period, remains an important area for further work. The silver lining is the accrual to the BCA scheme of the participants in the now-terminated DCA Insurance Scheme, providing a greater constituency of participants for future years, and the continued success of the BCA scheme, whilst much remains to be polished and resolved, is the sheet anchor of future development of the "one-stop-shop" for British Cavers.

The gradual winding-up of NCA has been prolonged by the need to complete a set of accounts in parallel with presentation of those for BCA. Jon's difficulties were solved by Bob Mehew, who has stepped into the breach and rescued the entire process, in a manner made possible only by his deep familiarity with the politics and finances of the past years of NCA. BCA is deeply in his debt.

The relationship of BCA with other organs of society at large, and particularly with Government in the guise of various Sports Councils, has been particularly fraught. During all of 2005 and extending into 2006, UK Sport has been considering its relationship with Governing Bodies of Sport (yes, BCA is the recognized Governing Body of Caving) which have no competitive ethos. After prolonged discussion, with the participation of the CCPR, UKSport has held to its original policy decision, and is withdrawing from funding support of BCA and the BMC, and reducing funding to non-Olympic competitive activities such as Water Skiing and Hang Gliding. A final quarter grant of £5,500 has been awarded for 2006 to taper off the withdrawal symptoms. This grant, originally more than £30,000 pa, used to support our Expedition and Training programmes, with smaller sums for Access and Equipment Committee activities. This shrank to £5,000 for Expedition support with £15,000 towards our training administration in recent years, and £11,000 in 2005.

Recently, Sport England has provided 5,000 annual towards limited training activity within England. Now, however, it is reviewing its policies with a similar brief to that adopted by UK Sport. Since the process is not yet complete an interim grant of 2,500 has been awarded for the first half of 2006, with the possibility of cessation thereafter. It is becoming clear that support for the BCA activities which are not self-financing (and provide services to the population at large rather than to BCA's membership, such as the Training and Certification schemes) must be sought in other areas of the public purse, reflecting the shift in emphasis which has occurred within Government. The UK Sp[orts Council and CPR have pledged assistance in seeking new partnerships to re-establish support in those areas in which a sound case for support can be made. For example, the fallout from the Work at Height controversy, in which Tom Redfern has played a major role, and following the concatenation of the AALA administration within the Health and Safety executive, will be a new recognition of Governing Body Schemes as the de facto authorities for training and technique in their respective areas of expertise, which will in turn enhance the claim for support.

In the coming year, BCA must concentrate its energies on revising its administration the better to reflect the needs and wishes of its membership. The special committees have a particular role to play in developing their traditional policy objectives to meet future needs and engage new blood to meet new challenges. The reports that the various officers will present today provide the opportunity to discuss in detail BCA's future path, and the groundwork for a new, properly and realistically budgeted forward plan for which personnel capable of delivering results can be identified.

It is always a pleasure to thank those who have contributed during the year but for various reasons may be unable to continue. It is easy also to forget that those who from time to time step up to the national stage are simultaneously active as cavers, with clubs and within regional councils. Indeed, it is there that they develop expertise and derive their opinions.

M.C. Day, March, 2006

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## Appendix B

### Report from the Webmaster

This year saw the fruition of BCA's new website.

I need to take this opportunity to thank Peter Wilton Jones for all of his help. It is much appreciated and without it the site wouldn't have happened. I also would like to thank Dave Cooke for his work on setting up the forum, this useful but under used resource contains closed and or hidden forums for use by the special committees. Contact me if you are unsure how to do this.

My long term strategy for this site is to make it the web face of BCA where all minutes, constitution, etc can be found. I have made on line tools, logons and a substantial help file available to all the officers so that they can upload their own content. The site is slowly being populated with this information, but there are a couple of areas that still need attention from their respective officers. I will give all the support needed and I am only an email or phone call away.

In conjunction with Nick Williams and my web data expert Peter Wilton Jones, we are currently working towards an online membership database. This resource should allow regional council officers to check the membership status of their member clubs and in the longer term will allow individuals and club secretaries to keep their contact details up to date online, thereby removing some of the administrative burden from the officers and employees of BCA. Following on from this and in conjunction with the training committee, it is intended to do the same with the training database.

As it is an information site, I don't want too many graphics, so I am keeping this under tight control.

I do think that BCA should have an interesting and graphical web presence, and to this end I have registered "caving is fun.org.uk" to be that site.

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## Appendix C

BCA Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2005

Please note this is available as a separate pdf document for download or is available in printed form by contacting the BCA Honorary Secretary.

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## Appendix D

Report from the Radon Working Party convenor  
AGM March 2006

The past year was again rather quiet, with no enquires from the general caving population. Additionally, there have been no monitoring projects to report on.

There had been a suggestion that, due to the general tightening up of exposure levels, the exposure levels to radon in recreational caving might be revisited. I therefore contacted NRPB to investigate. From the discussion it would appear that presently there are no plans in the immediate future to do anything about the previous recommendation. It is currently considered that the time-integrated annual exposure of 1 million Bq is an appropriate level in line with the present exposure levels in force with the other classes of persons.

The guidance leaflet for University clubs has been revised – a draft is available for the meeting. The main booklet, however, is still undergoing revision, but there is a slip to go in the remaining stock of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition.

Clark Friend  
Oxford, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006

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## Appendix E

Conservation Officer's Report, 2005 BCA AGM  
Elsie Little

Again this year I would like to stress my thanks to those in the field of conservation and access who have been carrying out sterling efforts to raise the profile of caving as well as carrying out on-the-ground works. Notable help has come from David Judson and the Regional Officers who, among other things have been locally refining the cave SSSI audit system along the lines first developed nationally.

This year collaboration with NAMHO has given impetus to negotiations with the National Trust. We would hope to build on this collaboration in other mutually beneficial areas.

We have continued to work profitably with the Bat Preservation Trust also. I am content that past 'frictions' between bats and cavers are long gone.

The main concerns currently for conservation and access are:

- a) Access to the coast planned legislation
- b) The sale of minerals (eg on Ebay)
- c) The spending power of BCA available to best support conservation and access work around the country

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## Appendix F

Annual Report  
Rope Test Officer  
Robert Mehew

### Rope Test Rig Service in 2005

During 2005, 32 samples were tested for 12 persons or clubs. Whilst this may seem impressive, I am forced to admit that 1 person had been waiting for well over 1 year and 3 for around 5 months, totalling 21 of these samples. However the rig was taken to the Forest of Dean weekend in June 2005 where under a blazing sun, 7 samples were tested. The rig was also taken to Hidden Earth in October where only one sample was offered for testing.

Of some concern is that nearly 30 percent of the tested ropes only managed to survive 2 drops. Clearly some cavers are taking their ropes to near their limit of performance.

Following the construction of the new BCA web site in 2005, a page was placed on the site providing the form to accompany the submission of samples. Another page was also placed on the site giving the early results from one sample rope in the Long Term Rope Test. An intention to place some more information on the web site has not resulted in action.

Looking forward, I hold 3 other Long Term Rope Test rope lengths which have been returned. I regret to state that the other 2 rope lengths have not been retrieved despite a range of endeavours to track them down. Whilst these are the priority work on testing in front of me, I am forced to admit that other aspects of caving do intrude on my retirement, so it will take some time for these to be tested. I have still got a range of new ropes totalling some 450 metre purchased some years ago. My intention remains to undertake a number of basic tests on these ropes to obtain some relationship between the rope test rig's method of testing and that used in the British Standard. I have also been given a number of well used ropes to carry out some work to determine the variability of strength of a used rope along its length. I thank the Morley Pothole Club for their donation of these ropes. Given these 8 ropes amount to over 250 metre, I foresee I shall be testing ropes for some while to come.

I remain content to offer a service to drop test a rope sample to any one for free.



## British Caving Association Annual General Meeting 2006 Training Officers Report

**Training Grants:-** Take up of these has again been poor. At the beginning of 2005 it was not clear if there would be funding after the first quarter so commitments we only made for this first quarter. Further applications only began to come in the Autumn and many events were cancelled at the last minute or delayed into 2006. It is a major concern that it is not possible to plan sufficiently far ahead by allowing end of year carry-overs etc. A major event which occurred in December, for which the organisers have not yet claimed also falls foul of the end of year deadline.

For this year it is hoped to be more proactive in promoting training events and it is hoped to reintroduce free SRT training at Hidden Earth but this time separate from the main hall to avoid the jeers of spectators. Also at Hidden Earth it is hoped to organise novice trips with qualified leaders aimed at the spouses and offspring of attendees.

In the Autumn it is hoped to organise a regional training workshop aimed at club training officers or any caver fulfilling this role.

**Training Awards:-** Early 2005 saw the issue of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the Local Cave Leaders Handbook mainly needed due to the change from NCA to BCA. Early 2006 saw the issue of the Cave Instructors Handbook, delays occurring due to the many small errors found whilst proof reading and changing from NCA to BCA. Substantial changes to the Mine Module were also needed following the death of Dave Edwards.

The temporary arrangements for Training Technical Advice continue, with the Training Officer fielding enquiries and seeking advice mainly from the Chairmen of the National Coordinating Panel and the CIC panel.

The appointment procedure for a further 3 CIC Trainer Assessors is in hand following the death of Dave Edwards and the retirement of others.

I include some statistical information on the take up of the awards. The figures show a steady small increase almost across the board. Last year I advised caution in the rise of registrations as I felt some of the increase in 2004 might be candidates delaying from 2003 due to the insurance shut down, however, the number increased again in 2005. Two items which seem strange is the reduction in Level 1 awards gained for which no explanation can be envisaged and the huge increase in Standard revalidations (these are done at 3years, 9years, 15years, after the award is gained).

The running of the Award Schemes would not be possible without the able assistance of the Area Liaison Officers Panel Chairmen and members of the various panels to whom I extend my thanks.

I should also like to single out Pat Ramsden as Training Administration Service Provider who keeps us on the straight and narrow with the records and often carries out work above and beyond her contract.

A continuing cause for concern is the difficulty that Trainer Assessors are experiencing in obtaining insurance cover. I was hopeful that the BCA insurance could be extended to cover their work and I fear that if this is not achieved shortly the smaller independent Trainer Assessors will be squeezed out in favour of those employed by large activity centres.

**General:-** During my first year of office Training Committee was required to discuss various issues, such as Conservation codes and Child protection policies, these matters appear to have sunk without trace during the conversion to BCA.

Some progress has been made in preparing a booklet of advice to cavers on weather and flooding but a lot of work remains to be done to complete this.

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## BCA Training Section Statistics for 2005

### Trainer Assessors

LCMLA Trainer Assessors	Last Year	This Year	
Prospective	7	7	
Approved	38	39	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>
CIC Trainer Assessor			
Approved	7	5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 (5)</b>	<b>5 (4)</b>	Currently advertising for 3 more.

Figures in brackets are also LCMLA Trainer Assessors

### ***Trainer Assessor 2005 training course statistics***

(NB – there may be have been other training courses that BCA admin has not been notified of)

#### ***LCMLA Training Courses***

Level 1 Cave	36	46
Level 1 Mine	3	7
Level 1 Cave & Mine	5	7
Level 2 Cave	9	17
Level 2 Mine	2	1
Level 2 Cave & Mine	1	0

#### ***CIC Training Courses***

	3	3
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## **LCMLA Trainer Assessor assessment statistics**

(NB – there may be other assessments that BCA admin has not yet been notified of)

**These figures are very approximate**

LCMLA awards	105	82	2 or 3 assess modules* “
Standard Revalidation	38	87	1 assess module “
Leadership Development Revalidation	36	43	1 assess module “
Modification to existing LCMLA	11	9	1 assess module

- \* Assessments for Cave & Mine Level 1 award requires 3 assessment modules, although assessment for Mod 1 and 6 are sometimes assessed on the same day and sent in on the same Section 4B
- \* Assessment for Level 2 to include SRT for Leader requires 3 assessment modules, although Mod 3 & 5 are often assessed on the same day and sent in on one Section 4B
- “ The revalidation may have actually taken place in the previous year, as a revalidation can be done up to 12 months early
- “ 1 or 2 modules towards an award may have been assessed in the previous year, and only the Module 2 or 4 in the current year.  
There are 51/37 Section 4Bs from 2004/5 where the award has still to be completed, or re-taken as deferred (4/8) or failed (5/3).  
There are 17/17 Section 4Bs from 2003/4 that are now out-of-date as the assessments for an award have to be completed within 12 months.

## **LCMLA 2005 statistics**

Registered for LCMLA	Last Year	This Year
LCMLA	241	254
Including Combined LCMLA & CIC	18	19

Gained LCMLA award		
Level 1	87	56
Level 2	18	26
Standard Revalidation	38	87
Leadership Development Revalidation	36	42
Modification to existing LCMLA award	11	

Valid LCMLA award holders at                      547 approx      555 approx  
(Paperwork outstanding will add a few new awards and revalidations as yet unknown)

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## ***Cave Instructor Certificate statistics***

Registered	27	28
(Including 18/19 combined LCMLA & CIC as listed above)		
Gained CIC award	1	5
Revalidated CIC award	20	21
Valid CIC award holders	60	63

There are also a few CIC Holders whose awards date from the early days and have no expiry date. It is not known how many of these are still active and have never re-validated.

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## Appendix H

Publications & Information Officer  
2006 AGM Report

Over the past year I've been liaising with the training committee on the CIC Handbook and with the legal officer for the Legal Aspects Underground joint publication. I have been in close communication with the web master.

I've been archiving all copies of BCA publications.

Recently I've been looking at a draft publication policy. I intend to convene a P&I meeting in the near future to pursue this further.

BCA web services is going well with quite a bit of interest, although I do need to get on top of the invoicing.

I'm hoping to implement online payments for these services.

# BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION



## Appendix I

The Chairman  
British Caving Association  
The Old Methodist Chapel  
Great Hucklow  
Buxton  
Derbyshire  
SK17 8RG

Honorary Secretary  
33 Ottery Way  
Didcot  
Oxfordshire  
OX11 7UG

March 14, 2006

Dear Mick,

### **ISSUES WITH THE BCA**

I have been instructed to raise some issues with you that the CSCC members see as unsatisfactory and in need of resolution. In my view these matters could be usefully dealt with at the BCA AGM and I hope that you will take this suggestion into consideration.

#### *BCA Equipment Committee*

The CSCC Equipment Officer, Les Williams, has on more than one occasion this past year reported to us on what quite frankly appears to have been a complete lack of any national coordination of the Equipment portfolio within the BCA.

We understand that there were some extenuating circumstances affecting the BCA Equipment Committee Convener during this period, but believe that this cannot, and should not, be used as justification. We are all at the mercy of events from time to time. Caving is an inherently technical sport and BCA technical committees must be proactive and vibrant if the National Body is to successfully fulfill its mission. In the last year of course caving faced issues such as the threat of DRT, questions about the suitability of Stop descenders, and the withdrawal of a resin manufacturer from the marketplace.

In addition, coordination of the Bolt Placement Insurance Scheme and the training of bolters is still not, so far as we can see, formally recognized within the structure of BCA (Les Sykes is only listed on the BCA Contact List as the CNCC Secretary). Is "bolting" an Equipment activity, a training activity, or something else? The CSCC has at times found it difficult to get new supplies of hangers and especially resin from the BCA stockpile.

These are all issues that would benefit from a more cohesive strategy, if only to keep people better apprised of what was happening.

Consequently, and notwithstanding the difficulties of finding volunteers to take on roles on behalf of the BCA, the CSCC will be looking for a more positive approach from whoever stands for the post of Equipment Convener at the BCA AGM, and for more oversight from the BCA Council in the future.

#### *Certification of Bolters*

Related to the preceding issue, our Bolting Coordinator, Andrew Atkinson, has advised the CSCC that he has still not been provided with any documentation detailing his "competency" to place bolts on behalf of the CSCC or to train others in bolt placement. This is despite attending a course run by Les Sykes in May/June 2004.

# BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION



Without this documentation Andrew has naturally refused to issue anything himself to those that he has trained in the intervening period for fear of the possible repercussions. The CSCC also has a bolting project in a show cave for which a paper audit trail would be useful.

I hope you will agree that this is a most unsatisfactory situation, and one with potential legal implications. The CSCC therefore asks the BCA Council to put in place such measures as may be necessary to rectify this matter at the earliest possible opportunity.

On behalf of the CSCC, I look forward to your comments.

With best regards,

Steve King

Hon. Secretary  
Council of Southern Caving Clubs