

MINUTES OF THE NCA EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23rd SEPTEMBER 1995
IN THE SHREWSBURY ARMS, EASTGATE STREET, STAFFORD.

- 1/ ATTENDANCE Owen Clarke NCA Equipment Officer
Adrian Fawcett Cambrian C C Equipment Officer
Dave George DCA Equipment Officer
Les Williams CSCC Equipment Officer
Mark Lowe DCA Anchor PLacing Team Rep.
Les Sykes CNCC Secretary
- 2/ APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Jenny Potts and Nick Williams.
- 3/ The MINUTES of the June Meeting were accepted as a true record
- 3a/ MATTERS ARISING. Item 4 The up to date position regarding Hilti was queried. A letter from Richard Laybourn stating that the NCA installation technique is effective in resin placing of Ecoanchors in limestone was tabled. There were complaints that holding the Equipment Committee on a separate date stopped any contacts with other committees. Although the next Training Committee date is not suitable, the following meeting could be held on the same date.
- 4/ CONVENERS CORRESPONDENCE. The new correspondence log sheet was shown, as were examples of recent correspondence. The major item was the pending announcement of an advice to test one one colour * identifier of a popular SRT rope. The correspondence with the manufacturer and the caving club involved were tabled, and the future action, including the desirability of a second test, and informing the retailer involved were discussed and agreed. OC
- 5/ ANCHOR REPORT CNCC No anchors have been placed recently, all the effort having been put into the replacement resin for Hilti C50, which will shortly cease to be produced. The tests on the new Hilti resin were disastrous, the Ecoanchors being pulled from the resin plugs at around 20 Kilonewtons, 2 Tonnes or about half the current value. One would have expected Hilti and DMM to scurry around to find the solution, but this was left to Les, who found an alternative resin, Resifix 3 plus chemical anchor mortar. 12 Anchors were placed in Yordas using a range of hole cleaning techniques. Les was thanked for his good work in testing the new Hilti resin and finding and testing an alternative. There was support for the use of a 15kN tensile test as a method of reliably stabilising loose anchors. This would avoid the considerable effort of drilling out and removing loose anchors. The compact Hilti proof testers are reported as being available at a reduced price, to be checked. LS
- 6/ ANCHOR REPORT DCA Mark Lowe reported that all planned anchors have been placed. There are no loose anchors. A major effort will be required to put permanent anchors into James Hall Over Engine Mine, especially in Leviathan where the old miners stemples obstruct the best hang.
- 7/ ANCHOR REPORT CSCC Les Williams reported that 15 anchors have been placed and passed torsion testing. Anchors are planned in Portland stone for Ariel Cave. Two new placers have been trained.
- 8/ ANCHOR REPORT CCC Adrian Fawcett reported that no anchors have been officially placed in Wales to date. A training session needs to be organised in Wales and potential placers invited to attend from the clubs involved with systems including verticals.

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9/ ROPE TESTING REPORT Owen Clarke reported that 14 ropes were tested at the Cavers Fair at Penwylt. There was considerable interest in the display of tested ropes. Rope Testing will be carried out at the BCRA conference, but not at the DCA training weekend.

10/ REPORT OF ANCHOR TESTS Les Sykes tabled the results of the tests on Ecoanchors in Resifix 3 plus chemical anchor mortar in Yordas cave

TEST No	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
MOVEMENT	36.0	46.8	25.2	36.0	45.0	36.0	23.4	45.0	54.0	34.2	18.0	34.2	Kn
MAX LOAD	46.8	54.0	29.0	54.0	52.2	48.6	36.8	50.4	54.0	44.0	40.0	37.8	Kn
HOLE PREP	BA	WBD	FWe	WBD	WB	WBD	BA	WBWe	BA	BA	BA	WBD	
NOTE	1		2		3		1						

Preparation Code: B=Brush, A=Compressed air, D=Dried with absorbent cloth, We=Left wet, F= Flushed only with water, W=

Notes 1 Cementation of limestone particles had occurred, difficult to clean thoroughly.

2 Only cleaning was flushing with water.

3 Hole was drilled vertically into floor, cleaned then filled with water and the resin was used to expel water.

11/ Owen Clarke presented the Rope Test Fund Accounts to 30/6/95 Petty Cash £56-69 Balance with NCA £13-68 Recent donations:- Penwylt £3, Devon Speleological Society £10.

12/ Items arising from suggested topics None

13/ ROPE TESTING AT DCA/NCA CAVERS WORKSHOP This will not be done because of no interest shown and proximity to OC Australian holiday.

14/ ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Jenny Potts had raised the question of how cavers can assess if their SRT gear is excessively worn. OC to write to Ben Lyon.

14.2 Les Williams asked whether heavy spraying of WD40 onto jammers followed by transfer to ropes could be damaging. OC to check.

14.3 The anchor placers stated that rotational tests on Ecoanchors were no longer carried out, the rock face now being grooved to support and restrain the head of the anchor.

15/ DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday 16th december in the Shrewsbury Arms, Eastgate Street Stafford. It is planned that the February meeting be held in the the Staffs CC Club at the same time as the Training Committee.

Owen Clarke NCA Equipment Officer
(In Australia until 12th December)

3rd November 1995