

Minutes of the N.C.P. meeting held on 12th July 2004
at Stafford at 10.00a.m.

1. Present: Dena Proctor, Tony Smith, Dave Baines, Eric Hoole, Graham Mollard {Chair}
2. Apologies for absence: Tom Redfern, Pat Ramsden.
3. The minutes of the meeting held on 26th February were read and approved.
4. Matters arising:
 - 4.1 The New Handbook. The N.C.P. felt that despite very strong views on the unprofessional nature of the cover on the first handbook this one has been put out with the same one. The panel states that it does not want any further handbooks to go out with this cover, and that from now on they should go out without a cover until a new print run is needed. G.M will produce a new cover for Training committee to approve.
 - 4.2 Point 4.3.3.2. has not been changed but it was explained that this was due to the fact that if changed it would make administration of the scheme more difficult, this was accepted.
 - 4.3 All other points of alteration recommended to Training Committee were accepted, however 3.2.1 had been overlooked when the changes were incorporated into the document consequently this was included as an Erratum. The panel felt that they had done a considerable amount of work to fine tune this document and it was unfortunate that some of the changes had either not been incorporated or completely ignored.
 - 4.4 Confidential as individuals' circumstances were discussed.
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 - 4.6 Again from point 7: The A.L.O'S reported that there were some very strong reactions from panel member re. the letter sent from the Training Officer regarding T/A status where the criteria had not been met. Many comments were received as to the tone of the letter, many felt that the N.C.A. had stopped some T/A'S meeting the criteria. In one case there was even the possibility of a whole panel resigning. It was unanimously felt that if the rules were to be applied then they must be done consistently. The N.C.P. recommends that due to many reasons criteria have not been met and that all T/As should be given until the end of 2004 to meet the criteria. However it should be pointed out by the Training Officer that this is a one off that will not be extended to T/As in future. A rider to this would be that mines T/As who have not attended a workshop must attend the January one in 2005.
5. The Training Committee Meeting: All points raised at Training committee from the N.C.P. were ratified.
 - 5.1 Porth-y-Ogof was discussed from the fact that it appears on the LCLMA list of Level one caves. The Training officer appeared to be questioning whether it should be on the list at all. This was contested and the idea of striking from the list dropped.
 - 5.2 The Training Officer raised the possible need for a new assessment module to be attached to Level two for basic S.R.T. He asked that this be discussed at N.C.P.
 - 5.3 The Training Officer raised the question as to whether we should be assessing prospective T/As in their ability to teach. He asked that this be an agenda item at the next N.C.P.

6. Concern was expressed over the situation regarding mines inspections due in the near future. Unless this situation can be ratified very quickly then the use of mines and the mines assessment scheme will very quickly come to an end. At present there may be some possibility the L.E.A centres may be able to employ a mining engineer and thus insure him through their corporate policy. However this is a stopgap measure, which could be full of loop holes. N.C.P. feels that this is not an isolated situation and that more and more companies are removing cover for caving from their portfolios. N.C.P. urges Training Committee to ask N.C.A. to seek a policy that will cover all T/As for the work carried out on behalf of the N.C.A. N.C.P. recognises that there will be costs involved but is quite sure that the majority of T/As would welcome this move.

7. Basic S.R.T. module: The overall consensus of opinion was that there was no place for an S.R.T. teaching module within the LCLMA scheme. It was noted firstly that LCLMA was a leadership qualification not a teaching one. Secondly that even with the removal of deviations, re-belays etc. that most of the skills necessary for CIC would have to be assessed therefore why not do CIC. N.C.P. could not support this move.

8. Assessing prospective T/As ability to teach: Following lengthy debate it was felt that there may be a need to more formally look at these skills. It was generally felt that we already do this but it is not written into the formal requirements for the prospective T/A. From now on it was felt that P.T/As should observe one Training Course at Levels 1 and 2 and that they should teach a substantial amount of the syllabus on two other courses one at level 1 and one at level 2. This teaching should be under the direct observation of the course director who will be expected to give feedback to the P.T/A at the end of the course. If the delivery is not of a required standard then the P.T/A will be expected to retake this section. N.C.P. recommends that Training Committee adopts this change to procedures.

9. The N.C.P. would like to minute that their good wishes go to Dave Edwards. Dave's absence has left a void that requires filling on a temporary basis. N.C.P. discussed this at some length. At present The Training Officer is making the decisions Dave normally made in consultation with others? N.C.P. Unanimously felt that the most productive way forward was that the Chair in consultation with two A.L.Os should carry out this work in Dave's absence. N.C.P. felt that their great depth of knowledge and experience of running the scheme placed them in a strong position to fill this void.

10. A.O.B.

10.1 Confidential as individual's circumstances were discussed.

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10.3 Workshops:

North of England 13th November 04.

North Wales 22nd January 05.

Mendip 23rd April 05.

Derbyshire September 05.

10.4 Panel Meetings:

Derbyshire 28th September 04.

North of England 14th October 04.

Mendip 21st October 04.

North Wales December 04.

Forest of Dean

10.5 Derbyshire Panel raised the problems they are having with insurance and ask that the N.C.A. looks at the possibility of a similar policy to the B.M.C. s, or possibly involvement directly with the B.M.Cs policy through liaison between one national body to another.

11. Date and place of the next meeting.

21st October 04 Stafford County Council Club at 10.00a.m.

The meeting closed at 1.30 p.m.