



British Caving Association

Finance Committee Meeting, 11th December 2018

Virtual meeting via WebEx

Minutes

Minutes of BCA Finance Committee WebEx 11/12/2018

Present: David Cooke (CSCC), Angus Sawyer (DCA), Howard Jones (Assist. Treasurer)

In attendance: Tim Allen (CNCC)

Purpose: Continue to discuss CNCC change to regional funding ideas and propose any changes to BCA Council (see also minutes of previous WebEx 1/11/2018)

Discussion:

Mileage allowance: Whether BCA adopts 45p per mile, in line with DCA and HMRC recommendation. It was estimated that to move to 45p would cost BCA some £4k in its own expenses, not including any regional refunds at that value. It was noted that 25p should cover fuel for all vehicles. It was noted HMRC allow a further 5p in a claim if more than one person travelled in the vehicle, i.e. 25p becomes 30p with 2 plus passengers. It was noted that CNCC do not refund their officers mileage.

C&A: to explore how BCA Finance Committee monitor future C&A spend to ensure BCA can afford to fund all C&A Calls.

See Appendix 1 below, notes prepared by Cookie prior to the call. It was noted the £500 level was set a long time ago and probably should be raised. It was noted that the wording of 2.1 was contradictory. It was debated whether referral to the C&A committee before or by Fin Com in different conditions was a good idea. (This was not agreed and hence will need to be a council decision) It was debated whether Fin Com alone being the arbiter of spend was promoting best C&A practice, or whether that was not their role. It was noted the regions had already vetted C&A projects before they put them forward for BCA funding.

Proposals:

Mileage allowance: Should stay at 25p for single passengers but increase to 30p per mile if more than one passenger was in the vehicle. In line with HMRC thinking and promotes good practice.

C&A:

Delete the word "all" from the 2.1 sentence so it now reads "To ensure the funding is spent for the benefit of BCA members."

Increase from £500 to £750 the value each region can spend on C&A activity without reference to Fin Com.

HJJ 12/12/18

Appendix 1 :

THE ROLE OF C&A COMMITTEE IN FUNDING REGIONAL COUNCILS

Prepared for Finance Committee meeting 11/12/2018 by David Cooke

The Regional Caving Councils (RCC) are independent organisations with their own funds in addition to the core funding from BCA.

C&A in a region is handled by that RCC and BCA can't get involved unless invited to do so (BCA Constitution 2.1):

- A C&A Committee making value judgements about the work of the RCCs might be seen as contradicting this.

The Finance Committees (FC) role is to fund any C&A project subject to having the funds available. C&A funding is to be encouraged since this is a direct tangible benefit to members. A large C&A expenditure is a good thing. Hopefully we will remain in the position where the number of volunteers is the limiting factor rather than the funds available.

However the FC does need to budget ahead which the reason funding is set up as per the Funding Document with C&A work being submitted as costed projects.

To fund a C&A project the FC needs to establish that:

- That the project is a legitimate C&A project.
 - o This is a role of the Scrutiniser.
- The money has been spent and spent on the project in question.
- The money has been spent for the benefit of BCA members.
- That, as a minimum, access is available to all BCA member clubs.

The question is what role does C&A having in answering those questions. I'd suggest none.

If funds were tight then the FC might be put in a position of assigning a priority to projects. At which point you are more in the position of apportioning a grant. The FC would then consult the C&A Committee as set out at 8.4b in the Funding Document.

As things stand at the moment, with BCA well funded, a RCC needs only interact with one committee to be paid. Only in exceptional circumstances would two committees be needed.

Under the CNCC proposal RCCs:

- would face increased bureaucracy and have to interact with two committees in all circumstances.
- the C&A Committee would be making the fund or not fund decision. That is a budgeting decision for and the role of the FC.
- the C&A Committee tying funding to "standards" would be seen a intrusive meddling.
 - o what tape are you using? Red. You won't get funded unless you use orange.
- there are better ways to raise standards.
- from a political point of view it is better not to have a system where one group of people have to make value judgements about another group of people's work.