



British Caving Association

Minutes of Meeting of National Council held on Saturday 12th March, 2005 at 4.50pm, in the Baptist Church Hall, Alvechurch, following the Annual General Meeting of BCA.

Those present:

M. Day (MD)	Chairman
J. Roberts (JR)	Treasurer
N. Williams (NW)	Insurance Manager
I. Williams (IW)	Training Officer
L. Williams (LW)	Publications & Information Officer
E. Little (EL)	Conservation & Access Officer
J. Potts (JP)	DCA
D. Judson (DJ)	BCRA & Legal & Insurance Officer
D. Cooke (DC)	CSCC, Club Rep. (Wessex CC) & Natl Cave Registry Co-ordinator
S. Mabett (SM)	CCC
P. Rafferty (PR)	ACI
C. Friend (CF)	Radon Working Party Convenor
C. Broome (CB)	Club Rep. (Masson CG)
O. Clarke (OC)	Club Rep. (Cwmbran CC)
P. Hall (PH)	Club Rep. (S. Wales CC)
E. Porter (EP)	Individual Rep.
S. Froude (SF)	Individual Rep. (after item 2)

Others:

B. Potts	Observer
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1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME & ADDRESS

MD opened the meeting at 4.50 p.m. and welcomed participants, thanking them for giving their time immediately after the AGM. He reminded the meeting that the prime purpose of the Agenda was to discuss matters of immediate import following the AGM and that routine items should be raised at the next full Council Meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Paula Grgich-Warke, R. Mehew, S. Holding, G. Jones, D. Jean, A. Pryke, G. Mullan, L. Wilson, A. Finch.

The co-option of Simon Froude (Bradford Pothole Club) to fill the vacancy for a second of four Individual Representatives was approved unanimously.

3. APPLICATIONS FOR GROUP MEMBERSHIP

None; validation of status of some members and prospective members had been delayed by the unfortunate resignation of Eddy Hill. The suitability of the constitutions of some bodies required confirmation.

4. MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING OF 8TH JANUARY, 2005

DC queried omission of a reply to a question he had asked under AOB in January, concerning what would happen when a Regional Council overspends its budget. He would be satisfied by a suitable clarificatory statement in these minutes. It was reaffirmed that RCs are expected to meet their respective budgets, but that the Treasurer's Meeting would give due consideration to reasonable overspends.

The Minutes of the 8th January 2005 were then accepted as a true and correct record of that Meeting, and duly signed by the Chair.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 8TH JANUARY 2005

There were no other matters arising.

6 & 7: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT & SECRETARY'S REPORT

Members were reminded that a new Hon. Secretary, Paula Grgich-Warke, had been elected unopposed at the General Meeting. She had been unable to remain for the Council Meeting, and would shortly be absent from the UK on expedition to Mexico. In the meantime, MD would share responsibility.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer was temporarily embarrassed by the sudden and tragic demise of his builder, which would delay his ability to take full control of BCA's finances. He would consult with PH and if necessary with others, in order to clarify the Association's liability for Corporation Tax. The practicality of instituting a mechanism of payments *via* an internet banking scheme as a means of streamlining contract and other payments would be investigated.

The establishment of new accounts in BCA's name was an urgent priority. Eddy Hill, following his precipitate and unfortunate resignation, had forwarded the applications initiated during 2004 to HSBC; understandably, without completing the entries relevant to himself as the organisation's secretary. NW confirmed that these original forms had now been returned to him; it was unclear whether they could be used, since too much of the information was now out of date. He would obtain replacement forms.

It was proposed that the requirements identified in 2004 should be implemented, with changes only to reflect the changes in officers following the appointments made by the Annual General Meeting. The current signatories to NCA No 1 account were MD and B. Mehew (BM). It was noted that BM holds the chequebook for this account, which together with the others would be closed on completion of the dissolution process approved by the Special General Meeting of NCA held that afternoon.

The BCA constitution requires a minimum of any 2 of 3 signatories to an account to validate a cheque. It was re-affirmed that there should be four signatories to each account.

The following actions were unanimously resolved:

Signatories to the existing HSBC – BCA account (used for insurance income and some BCA payments) were currently two of M. Day, B. Mehew, J. Potts and Nick Williams. B. Mehew should be replaced by J. Roberts as current BCA Treasurer; J Potts be replaced by P. Grgich-Warke as current BCA Secretary. It was noted that Nick Williams currently holds the chequebook for this account.

Two new accounts should be set up:

HSBC – BCA No 1 (main account used for most transactions). M. Day, J. Roberts, P. Grgich-Warke and Nick Williams to act as signatories. It was agreed that J. Roberts should hold the chequebook for this account.

HSBC – BCA Training (used for training award schemes income and training payments). Signatories to be M. Day, J. Roberts, P. Grgich-Warke and Idris Williams. It was agreed that J. Roberts should hold the chequebook for this account.

Action: MD to organise changes of signatures and new accounts.

9. INSURANCE MANAGER'S REPORT

Several clarifications were proposed or sought arising from administrative experience to date.

In line with concern expressed at the AGM, NW proposed to extend continuation of cover until the end of March to Direct Individual Members registered during 2004 who had not yet renewed for 2005. These members would receive an urgent reminder encouraging them to renew by the end of the month. This was unanimously approved.

Clubs which were not primarily Caving Clubs, eg, Caving sections of Mountaineering clubs, which need not have their own limited constitutions, needed to provide a satisfactory means of identifying individually all participants who were to be indemnified within the Scheme. Each individual so identified needed to contribute unless otherwise covered.

NAMHO Member clubs must themselves also be full members of BCA. This requirement was perceived to be seen as onerous by some; it was recommended that attention be paid in advance to identifying the positive additional benefits which would accrue to such clubs.

Unable to renew its insurance without consulting its membership, South Wales CC had painted itself into a corner from which it could only be released by its AGM in May (the previous AGM had imposed this requirement). In the meantime, the membership were uninsured except those who were Direct Individual Members. The Club itself was not insured, nor were its activities as an Access Controlling Body. It sought to be exempted from the obligation to participate as a fully insured club, but be recognised as an ACB in order to safeguard access to OFD and other caves within its control. NW had so far resisted capitulation to this proposition on grounds of equality of treatment of other participating ACB clubs. However, he would be guided by Council's view.

Several non-SWCC Council members expressed concern about the universality of loss of access to OFD, one of the most widely-visited sites in the country. Three alternatives were discussed: firstly, acceptance of SWCC's argument; secondly, support of NW's view; or thirdly, a compromise in which

SWCC were accommodated until their AGM, but with compliance expected thereafter. It was proposed by LW, seconded EP, that the third (compromise) alternative be adopted. This was carried *nem. con.*, EL, DJ, JP, PH, MD abstained.

10. MATTERS ARISING FROM 2005 AGM REQUIRING COUNCIL'S ATTENTION

The debate in the AGM on the interpretation of DIM and CIM membership had been remitted to Council for attention. NW undertook to clarify by the time of the Meeting in June the implications of the definitions discussed at the AGM for the perceptions of the Financial Services Authority with respect to provision of insurance as a benefit of membership.

A plea for early circulation of AGM minutes in draft met with general approval. Members of Council, DIMs and Group Members should receive individual copies. The minutes should be posted as soon as possible on the BCA website.

11. PROVISIONAL DATES (AND VENUES) FOR FUTURE MEETINGS FOR CONFIRMATION

11th June, 2005 (Council).

15th October, 2005 (Council).

14th January, 2005 (Council).

25th March, 2006 (AGM & Council).

All at 10.30 am, Venue: Baptist Church Hall, Alvechurch.

12. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Andy Eavis (UIS), (SFEC). Proposed DC, seconded JP, unanimous.

13. APPOINTMENT OF CONVENOR, RADON WORKING PARTY

Clark Friend.

14. APPOINTMENT OF EDITOR

Jim Cochrane.

15. APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL CAVE REGISTRY CO-ORDINATOR

Dave Cooke.

16. APPOINTMENT OF WEBMASTER

Les Williams.

17. APPOINTMENT OF ROPE TEST OFFICER

Bob Mehew.

Ratification of the appointments **13 - 18** was proposed (CB) and seconded (DC) *en bloc*.

Unanimous.

18. RATIFICATION OF GHAR PARAU FOUNDATION GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

MD had attended the GPF Meeting; at present, only £1,250 was available from UKSport, the last tranche of 2004/2005 grant. GPF proposed allocation of £500 each to Meghalaya and Vietnam, and £250 to OUCC. No queries were raised. Proposed JP, seconded SM, that the GPF Sports Council grant recommendations be ratified. Unanimous.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

BCA Logo Competition. The competition at Conference had allowed for two entry categories, to maximise participation. DC proposed, LW seconded, that each category winner be awarded a prize of £50. Unanimous.

DC then announced that the judges had finally agreed on the two successful entries, from which a final choice should be made by the Executive. Council held a vote on show of hands to provide an advisory opinion for the Executive. For Dave Gibson's entry; 10: for Bev Jones's; 1.

DC undertook to communicate with the winners. LW displayed an exemplar colour poster designed by Jerry Wooldridge which utilised Dave Gibson's logo design.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 5.59 pm.

M.C. Day

14th March, 2005