

Minutes of the CIC Panel meeting held on March 4th 2005, at Ingleborough Hall, Clapham.

Present: Geoff Barber (GB), Nigel Ball (NB), Tony Flanagan (TF), Tom Redfern ACI (TR), Juliet Parker-Smith (JPS), Chips Rafferty (CR)

1. Apologies: Nigel Atkins, John Cliffe, Dave Elliot, Graham Mollard, Paul Ramsden, Idris Williams

Before commencing the meeting, NB proposed a tribute to Dave Edwards, acknowledging the huge contribution that he has made to the CIC scheme and NCA training matters. All agreed that he will be greatly missed.

2. Minutes of the last meeting: 24th September. Read and accepted.

Matters arising:

NB reported that Alasdair Neal has failed to complete his CIC assessment within the agreed extended time scale (his name has also been removed from the Southern panel LCL trainer/assessor list). As he does not hold a LCL level 2, if he starts the assessment process again, he will have to fulfil the requirements of this in addition to the new CIC modules.

Charles Milton has made no further contact regarding his assessment, although he has been in touch with TF. CR confirmed that he was aware of the requirement that he needs to undergo the teaching module of the assessment with a neutral assessor.

Michael Hale has now re-validated his award.

3. CIC syllabus:

This is ready to go to print, pending agreement on amendment to Mines Module. NB requested a suitable photograph for cover (print or slide) - instructional/vertical skills. CR has some which he will e-mail to NB.

4. CIC Module 5 Mines

Conversation revolved around the clarity of the wording of section 3.4.5.5. Candidates should have logged experience in all three types of mine systems, at least forty trips in total, in order to satisfy the criteria for the mines module. It was agreed that the present wording of this section was adequate and it was not appropriate to be more prescriptive.

NB sought clarification from the panel regarding suitability of experience of a CIC holder that had applied to him for a mines endorsement. It was agreed that the experience recorded in this case did not meet the criteria.

Following on from this, some members of the panel expressed concern that currently any CIC assessor can assess for the mines module, regardless of experience in this field. Despite being a paper work exercise, it was felt that an assessor should have specific experience and knowledge.

NB was acknowledged to be the most experienced member of the panel, 'mine-wise', and nominated 'mines assessor'. It was recognized that there may be occasions when further technical advice may be needed, when drawing up individual personal action plans. It was suggested that Dave Baines and Dena Proctor should be approached, as subject specialists, for consultation purposes. Fees charged should reflect their input.

Change of wording to be recommended to the training committee:

3.4.5.5 g) Those CIC candidates and CIC holders seeking endorsement of his/her CIC with the Mines Module should send the required evidence to an appointed CIC mines assessor, who will check that the criteria have been met.

7.1.9 CIC Trainer/Assessors

Addition of Mines Module Assessor/s                      Nigel Ball

5. CIC - Recent assessments:

Completion:                      Richie Ralph 2004  
   Simon Mee 2005

Paul Platt - nearing completion

Stephen Banks and Chris Binding - about to start

6. Recent Revalidations:

TF (Nov.) 4 candidates

NB 6 candidates (+ Graham Mollard in capacity of LCL assessor)

7. Revalidations for 2005:

DE May

GB August

Discussion revolved around the need for additional workshops. Agreed to offer an additional date - Nov. 15th/16th - to be run by GB if August is cancelled, or CR if it runs.

Revalidation of Mines Module. Revalidation should run in synchronization with CIC.

Recommended amendment for training committee:

3.6.2 Those holding the Mines module should show an appropriate breath of experience, reflecting both personal and instructed mining trips.

3.6.3 The Mines Module can be revalidated by applying to the CIC assessor appointed for Mines.

8. Training Courses for 2005:

TF -                      26 > 29 April

JPS -                      Early Autumn

TF -                      11 > 14 Oct.

                                 6 > 9 Dec.

Both TF & JPS reported cancellation of training courses; demand for courses being customer driven. Even if dates on website were changed, at least potential candidates had a contact point.

9. CIC trainer/assessor workshop:

TF suggested that this would be a good way to help standardize training, assessment and revalidation. Panel meetings allow for discussion only and allow no practical element.

Suggested venue/date - Sun 20th Nov./ Derbyshire, to coincide with ACI AGM.

Focus - Module 4, Vertical skills instructing - coaching strategies, how do we approach this module in training and assessment. TF to lead.

10. Caver training booklets:

Dave Baines has offered to do weather and flooding. CR to draft read and if suitable pass back to Dave to complete. CR stated that these booklets should be an 'aide memoir' not huge publications, but be a comprehensive text suitable for all awards. 10 x A4 was suggested as a guideline. Booklets to be available as down load or publication.

Jenny Potts has access to a publisher, in Buxton.

There is a need to ascertain whether funding is still available through BCA.

11. TTASP:

Short term situation - Idris to 'field' enquiries, passing onto relevant panels anything that he is not in a position to deal with.

Long term - NB suggested that the post may be excess to requirement as LCL NCP and CIC panels could pick up queries that Pat could not deal with. CR was concerned that the public would not have technical point of contact easily accessible.

NB stated that Sport UK funding may be reduced and losing the post may make the training schemes more sustainable. CR was concerned that if a lower bid was put in, Sport UK may reduce funding available.

12. ACI workshops:

TF suggested that if ACI workshops got off the ground, they could be a way for CIC holders to cover practical elements of revalidation - workshop attendance contributing towards CPD. Members of the panel were supportive of this as a long term objective.

13. Impact of NCA/BCA changes:

NB reported that there should be no major changes. The initial idea that all prospective trainees within the scheme should be BCA registered has not been initiated, as this would have doubled the registration fee.

14. Insurance:

As to be trainer/assessors for the training schemes we are obligated to hold public liability insurance, discussion revolved around possible policy options. Perkins Slade are retaining existing customers only. Jardine Lloyd Johnson (through IOL) have increased premiums by about 12 > 15 %. Companies generally are unwilling to insure instructors for caving alone.

Caving insurance, as a subsidiary activity, for mountaineering instructors is still available for MIA/C's through AMI.

TR enquired if insurance cover could be secured through BCA insurance, as training and assessment was run through the BCA. It was noted that the BCA policy had previously been extended to cover the work of Dave Carlisle.

15. Training Officer business: Covered in point 11.

16. Cave or Mine: Derbyshire have drawn up lists for mines and caves.

17. Hidden Earth SRT race:

General agreement that the SRT race encouraged bad/dangerous practice. Training should be well separated from the race at the Hidden Earth Conference.

18. AOB: Next meeting - 30th September 2005