

BCA AGM, 2018

Ac. Hon Secretary's report

I did a little research in my archives recently and discovered that my first foray into national caving politics was to help write part of the NCA submission to the UK Sports Council on behalf of the Ghar Parau Foundation in May 1991. I have held a Council post on either NCA, BCRA or BCA continuously since that time.

27 years later, it's long past time to move over and make room for some new ideas. I therefore give notice now that I will not be standing for re-election at the 2019 AGM.

Alongside my role as Secretary, I also wish to divest myself of the roles of PL Insurance Manager and Personnel Manager. I would also quite like for the BCA Cave to be found a new home since it's currently occupying one of a limited number of parking spaces at my rented industrial unit and so it's costing me money (and has been ever since we got it)! My business also needs the space.

I am happy for my office address to continue to be used as the official postal address for BCA and BCRA for the foreseeable future.

Turning to matters in the year past, I do not intend to re-visit the content of my previous Secretarial reports: they are already a matter of record and available to be referred to by those who wish. Proposals put before this AGM on L+I and training are culminations of some of this work.

Looking to the future, I applaud the proposals for vision and other potential developments in BCA operations, but someone will need to make them happen. Simply loading them on to an already over-worked executive to pursue will not produce the results desired. People also need to learn that if they want to achieve things through BCA then they need to be prepared to put the legwork in to get others in their side. Far too often matters are brought to Council in an adversarial fashion and without due preparation of the argument. Politics is hard work and needs a lot of diplomatic effort if it is to produce successful and sustainable outcomes. Caving politics is no different. All too often 'solutions' are presented as a zero sum game where one side has to 'lose' if the other side it to 'win'. In practice, with a bit of effort, more often than not both sides can be winners.

Finally, I think it is necessary to make the point that while I generally support the move towards the establishment of a 'right to cave' under CRoW, it is far from the only important issue which BCA needs to get to grips with in the coming year. Risk assessment, Radon, the award schemes, indemnity waivers, IT and membership systems are all important matters which will require Council's time and effort in the coming year. We must also maintain the drive to increase participation by younger people on Council as well as in the wider caving community .

Nick Williams  
Ac. Hon Secretary  
31 May 2018