

## BCA Media Liaison Officer Report For AGM Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Over the last year since July 2018 the caving media has been dominated by the cave rescue in Thailand. At least 50% of all the media enquiries have been in connection with this. There are clearly a lot of books being produced, articles being written, and films been made.

I worked closely with British Cave Rescue Council, particular Emma Porter and Peter Dennis who were overwhelmed with media activity. Many enquires were passed onto the British Cave Rescue Council and the British Cave Diving Group. I handled a general enquiry role over a short period and then everything was passed onto others.

Continuing spin from the rescue has generally been positive, although the Vern Unsworth, Elon Musk debacle is, I think a little unfortunate and is still rumbling on. All other enquires were passed on to the relevant people.

Many enquires came in by telephone and news organisations need quick responses, people like Sky News, BBC and other news channels, preferred means of contact is still the telephone. They generally interview the first person they can get hold of which in some cases is a little worrying.

Other notable enquires where from the Guinness Book of Records wanting to know if the Thai Rescue was the largest cave rescue ever, I passed them onto the BCRC, but I think they ultimately dropped it.

Picking out a few other enquiries:

CNN were interested in the biggest cave chamber in the world, and this was passed to Richard Walters who has recently done a lot of laser scanning around the world.

The Anglo-Omani magazine wanted an article which I wrote myself and was published last November.

A psychology research worker was interested in post expedition psychology which was passed to the Ghar Parau Foundation.

A Scottish film maker was looking at the mental health benefits of adventure and was passed onto Steph Dwyer.

Penguin books are producing a book called "Underland" by Rob McFarland they had a number of enquires, this was handled by Dave Rose.

Recently the Thai hype has calmed down and media enquiries have been at a more normal level.

A TV journalist interested in transgender women in sport contacted me, in particular with reference to competitive sports. Currently caving is not a competitive sport and I told her this and I think she was satisfied.

A small number of magazines have approached reference general caving articles, they have all been passed onto other appropriate people.

Currently there are a number of films and publications being published in connection with the Thai Cave Rescue, notably a book by Dave Rose, this I think will be the definite account of the rescue. So much biased information has been produced that an accurate account is much needed.

As I am writing this a new of a rescue in the Yorkshire Dales has come through. I have collated information and am expecting but not hoping for a media barrage!!

At the end of my report in April, I said I would definitely like to stand down. Since then, I have been approached by a number of people suggesting that since I pass on most of the enquires, and rightly or wrongly, I am often approached by the media anyway, I should continue as Media Officer and pass on the enquires to the people I see appropriate. If the BCA want me to do this then I am prepared to continue for another year.

**Andy Eavis**  
**2 June 2019**