

Appendix 8

Item 26.1 It's generally agreed, the BCA could improve the way it is perceived within the caving community. Equally, for the future health of the sport, caving needs to be promoted to a wider, non-caving audience to help attract the cavers of the future.

The Publications and Information role within the BCA should be an integral part of this - communicating via newsletters, social media, articles, adverts, leaflets, the BCA website, events and of course publications etc.

The P&I is currently a Standing Committee, which is open to representatives from all constituent bodies. A recent Webex meeting on 9th April 2019 (the first convened meeting of the P&I in years) was attended by four people as representatives of a BCA constituent body and two invited other attendees. While it was a reasonably productive meeting, it became clear that the P&I is a function of the BCA that might be better supported as a single Officer position rather than as a Standing Committee, enabling one person to lead this and co-opt assistants for specialist areas (e.g. as per the current webmaster and newsletter editor positions). This is not unlike a Standing Committee but gives more authority to the appointed Officer to 'get on with the job' which in the rapidly moving world of social media and publicity, is essential. Some things just don't need to be discussed within the current structure of the Standing Committee.

Of course, it would be expected that the P&I Officer would report to Council at each meeting and engage as necessary on matters that he/she judge as needing wider input or ideas. This fits with the aspiration of many people to see the BCA streamlined to allow quicker responsiveness to events, and less reliant on input from non-existent representatives from the various constituent bodies (thus leaving any available representatives freer to focus on the other BCA Standing Committees which would benefit more from wider input). It also expands the Executive beyond the classical three roles.

The constitutional amendments set out in agenda item 26.1 are proposed to make this happen (and the Manual of Operations will need to be updated accordingly in due course).

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