

MINUTES OF NCP HELD ON 12/10/05 AT STAFFORD.

1. Present: D. Baines, T. Smith, T. Peacock, G.N.Mollard.
2. Apologies for absence: D.Proctor, T. Flanagan, D. Morrison.
3. Minutes of the meeting held 13th June 05 were read and approved with one change. Apologies should have included T. Redfern.
4. Matters arising:

Handbook issues.

(4.1) G.M. reported back to NCP that TC saw no occasions when an under eighteen could take part on a LCLMA training course, and that no trainer/assessor should ever include an under eighteen on such a course.

(4.2) 7 Risk assessments: G.M. reported back that in spite of some strong feelings from the majority of the NCP. The TC felt that risk assessments were the province of the employers and that no element of formal risk assessments should be included in LCLMA training or assessment.

(4.3) 8 TC felt that it was unreasonable and would prohibit club covers getting involved in the scheme to insist that all persons taking part in a CIC training scheme should have completed assessment at Level 2 with the inclusion of SRT for the leader module. They felt a self evaluation form should be sent out to those applying for a training course which should be returned to the course director prior to the start of the course who could decide whether that candidate was at the correct level for the training course. NCP felt that this edict from TC was flawed and the thinking behind it also flawed.

(4.4)10.5. Insurance issues. TC felt that Trainer/assessors were not responsible for candidates' personal protection equipment, that Trainer/assessors should carry out a visual check but the legal responsibility lay with the candidate should a piece of said equipment fail and one of the candidates group or himself/herself be injured. GM asked TC to obtain further guidance on this issue to put all Trainer/assessors minds at rest.

NCP felt that in the present climate of litigation the courts would normally try to attribute blame to the responsible expert.

A general comment was made by one ALO that as far as insurance matters and other matters relating to instructed caving were concerned, he had been told that certain members of the BCA exec. were opposed to the professional side of the sport. This seemed quite evident when one or two exec. members were actively trying to get rid of any involvement in training and assessment by approaching other bodies to assume responsibility for training and assessment.

NCP was quite disturbed by these comments. GM. Reported that there had been several E-mails relating to who should assume responsibility for training and assessment, but he had been assured by the TO that he felt National Qualifications should always stay under the control of the National Body. GM reported that the TO had not been involved in the approaches to ACI.

(4.5) 6. GM. Reported that he had an agreement with Joint Services and the TC for him to moderate one of their CVP courses to ascertain whether they meet the same criteria as LCLMA training courses.

(4.6) 9.GM reported back on the general discussion at TC re panel sizes. He reported the discussion that panel members may some time in the future be selected by an independent panel rather than the local panel as had been the case of the CIC trainer/assessors. ALO's generally felt that this was the prerogative of the local panels and not the TC. TC. Made no comments on charges made by trainer/assessors. NCP felt that they were opposed to a standardisation of charges across the country but it was always useful to know what others charged.

5. Technical advisor. NCP felt that at present the TO and the chair of NCP were dealing with all the problems that arose more than adequately and that as long as they were both willing to absorb this extra work then NCP gave them their full support. NCP wished it minuted that they felt all training and assessment must stay under the control of the National Body responsible for caving. They further felt that the recent dictums on the importance of exercise and Adventurous activities in the development of our young people from Education Guru's and ministers gave a perfect stage to BCA exec. to pursue funding for the National Body.

6. The chair raised the question as to what else local panels could do to provide a service to club cavers. He asked if ALO's would take this back to their panels to see if they were willing possibly once a year to provide some form of training free of charge to their local clubs. GM also asked whether anyone was willing to offer anything in the form of training etc. to next years Hidden Earth. He asked that anyone willing should contact him ASP. Their offer may not be taken up but this was another chance to put something back into the caving community.

7. The chair raised the question as to the purpose of the NCP, other than from Derbyshire there had been little being brought to NCP from local panel meetings. GM felt that at present NCP was the middle man between local panels and the TC. He felt that agenda items should be generated from the panels as well as from TO. He also felt the ALO's must represent the views of their panels, recently we have had a number of points agreed at NCP that have been against the views of some panels. GM also felt that it was important that ALO's tried to attend NCP and if they could not they asked others to attend for them; One panel has not been truly represented for over two years.

8. Matters arising:

8.1 TP mentioned the lack of young people entering the sport. He felt that although the outdoor centres were doing a good job promoting the sport, the young people met a brick wall when they tried to pursue it away from the centres. Most clubs appear to be unwilling to accept members under the age of eighteen. This is probably due to insurance problems regarding minors.

8.2 TP sought clarification on the position of the group instructor regarding level 1 traverse lines. It was agreed that the line was purely there to protect the group and the leader should be able to operate without that security.

8.3 Ian Rennie, Des Marshal, and Jess Parr, have been accepted onto the Derbyshire panel.

8.4 DB raised the question as to whether Alo's could be informed of all six year re-validation due in their area three months in advance so LDC could be arranged. This had already been pursued by the chair and appears to be achievable.

8.5 DB asked if Pat could ask all T/A's if they were having problems with insurance. He is still pursuing adequate cover with his broker but it would be an advantage to know how many need it. GM will ask the TO if this is possible, TP mentioned a company called Arch Insurance (Europe) Ltd. May be open to an approach, this information came from John Cliffe.

8.6 GM asked if panels would like him to approach some manufactures for trade deals on equipment for their personal use. ACI already had such a deal but not all T/A's were ACI members.

9. T/A's workshop dates

Yorkshire November 18th 06

We need another workshop ASP as at least two T/A's need to attend one to maintain their status; it would appear to be Mendip/Forest of Dean - will the ALO talk to his panel before the next NCP to fix a date.

10. Date and time of the next meeting:

Wednesday 8th Feb 06 10.00am. Stafford County Council Social Club.

Friday 9th June 06.

The meeting closed at 1.48pm.