

The National Body

On 1 January this year, the new BCA finally came into existence. This is the body that will take over the national body functions of NCA and BCRA and eventually develop into the single unified national body talked about for so long.

A timetable has now been set to transfer all of the functions from NCA into BCA by the end of 2004, and NCA will be formally wound up at its next AGM in March 2005. In the meanwhile, BCRA is also moving to transfer functions to the new body, and proposals will be put forward to the 2004 BCRA AGM to this effect.

There are still many aspects of the re-organisation which remain to be worked out, but I believe that we now have a vision of the new national body which makes it clear what individual members, clubs, SIGs and other bodies will get out of it, and we can start working towards that vision.

The relationship between BCA and BCRA will have to change fundamentally in order for the new body to work, and to protect the long term interests of BCRA in supporting cave science. BCRA will in essence become a sub-set of BCA, and persons wishing to join BCRA will have to first become members of BCA.

I realise that to some people this will come as a complete anathema, but I am convinced that this change, which is absolutely central to the re-structuring of the two organisations into a single, effective national body for caving, is essential for the longer term good of sport caving and cave science in the UK.

From some future date (which has yet to be determined but will not be before 1 January 2005) BCRA will cease to accept direct payments for individual subscriptions. Clearly there is still a great deal of detail to be worked out and given the need for constitutional amendments, it is unlikely that all of the changes can be implemented in less than 12 months.

In common with all volunteer run organisations, you will only get out of BCRA and BCA what you are prepared to put into it. We do not have an army of paid helpers who will magically put these changes into effect and in the meanwhile, there is bound to be some hiatus and disruption.

Nick Williams, BCRA Chairman

Look out for more in-depth analysis in Issue 2! (ed)

CLEAN UP - OR CLEAR OFF!

The following letter was recently received by BCA/NCA Chairman Mick Day from our Gallic friends across the water - please take note! (the letter appears un-edited).

*Comité Départemental de Spéléologie Isère 2,
rue du général Marchand 38000 GRENOBLE*

Subject: Guideline on caving in France and particularly in the Gouffre Berger

Dear Colleague,

The local administration of Engins' village regularly ask the local cavers to clean the Gouffre Berger. Each time, several bags are extracted. They mainly contain rubbish and abandoned material. According to the food packaging or the trade mark of the material, a large part of their content may have been left by British cavers (about 30%, representing 75 kg for the last cleaning operation in August 2003).

Though we believe that each group of cavers should be autonomous in carrying its own rubbish and material out of the cave in any case, this practice is now essential in the Gouffre Berger. Indeed, the Gouffre Berger is located on an area which will soon be included in the "Natura 2000" European Programme. So, if rubbish is again found inside the pothole or even on the surrounding of its entrance, its access will simply be forbidden. For this reason, some fields in the area, where cavers previously camped are now already forbidden.

We actively deal with local administrations to keep caving practice free, and particularly in the mythical Gouffre Berger. One condition for the success of this enterprise is that each of

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BCA Update

Clean Up! - Continued from Page 2

us behaves in a responsible and respectful way both outside and underground. We are convinced that only a minority of cavers are unaware of these principles; however, the risk is that all cavers pay for this minority. So, we would be very grateful if you can inform the members of your Federations and groups of these facts and enjoin them to respect carefully these basic principles of autonomy and ecology.

*Sincerely yours,
Philippe Cabrejas President of the CDS 38
Xavier Nogues FFS correspondent for
Great Britain.*

Distribution of BCA Newsletter and BCA's database

BCA is faced with the challenging task of keeping up to date a total membership list of well over 3000 names and addresses. Currently it does that, like BCRA, using spreadsheets and some of the sophisticated software that comes with them to create mailing lists and such like. One thing it cannot do, so far, is to maintain different names and addresses for a club, so that the subscription request can go to the Treasurer, the newsletter can go to the librarian and the information request to the Secretary. Currently we are stuck with a single name and address to deal with all such communications.

This challenge has been increased by having in some cases a different name dealing with insurance on behalf of a club that are different from those that BCRA and NCA hold. BCA's approach has been to use the following order of preference of to whom to send material for clubs, namely:

- 1 The name and address of BCA's Insurance contact,
- 2 The name and address of BCRA's contact,
- 3 The name and address of NCA's contact.

We know that some clubs have difficulty in passing material between different officers. But as things stand, we can't cope with pleas from clubs to send different items to different addresses. What BCA needs is a simple database to provide us with this flexibility. We think

we know how to write the specification for such a database, but what is really needed is some volunteer effort to do the work. But until we get a volunteer along to do this, can you who get this publication on behalf of a club, please make sure it is passed on to the **correct** officer of your club. Many thanks for your help.

Report: Bob Mehew

Access and the 'One-Stop-Shop'

The primary aim of BCA is to provide a "One Stop Shop" to its members, namely a single route to all services via a single subscription. This concept is best reflected in the provision of access to caves. Before BCA was created, one had to join a relevant Regional Caving Council (RCC) or be recognised in some way or other by an Access Controlling Body in order to obtain access to wide range of caves. A significant driver in forming BCA was to do away with this need to join or seek individual recognition from these bodies. The simplest and best example of the impact of BCA's impact is that clubs no longer need to join Council of Northern Caving Clubs (CNCC) in order to obtain permits for access to the northern caves.

As part of the negotiations in 2003 leading up to NCA's Special General Meeting in November, NCA struck a deal with CNCC whereby CNCC would accept any member of BCA as being automatically a member of CNCC for 2004. This was set up as a special one year deal whilst "Phase 2" negotiations continued in 2004 to bring RCCs into BCA and set up the tithing mechanism (These negotiations are continuing and hopefully the results will be announced in

BCA Offers clubs membership card printing service

With the purchase of a sophisticated credit card printer for the Public Liability insurance scheme, BCA is now in a position to help clubs by providing a bureau printing service for clubs wanting membership cards. Our capability includes being able to print logos and full colour photographs. Costs will be competitive and will help to offset the purchase price of the equipment (and hence support the PL scheme). Please contact Nick Williams to discuss your requirements and obtain details of prices etc.

E-mail: chairman@bcra.org.uk

BCA Update

the next BCA Newsletter). In recognition of the potential income loss to CNCC by this deal, NCA guaranteed a grant to CNCC to cover significant losses which CNCC might incur by the loss of subscriptions from non northern clubs. The result of this deal was to enable BCA to claim that it had set up a virtual "One Stop Shop" on 1st January 2004.

In recognition of the help which both NCA and BCRA were giving to BCA, BCA decided to provide free membership for all clubs who were members of either NCA or BCRA for 2004. Thus automatically, BCA has some 300 clubs as members. Many of these clubs now no longer need to pay a subscription to CNCC, not only a small saving, but a large practical step towards the "One Stop Shop" concept. Applications for access to northern caves should follow the standard process, namely write on club note paper, signed by the club's appointed officer to the relevant Meets Secretaries for Leck Fell, Casterton Fell, Birks Fell & Mongo Gill or Penyghent, Fountains Fell & Washfold Pot enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for a response. Details of the addresses of Meets Secretaries can be found in BCA's Handbook which has now been issued to all members (excepting those individuals who joined via a club).

However, it must be emphasised that whilst BCA has set up a "One Stop Shop" for members to obtain access, it does not override any of the conditions which are part of the access agreement. Thus as CNCC's access agreements specify only clubs will be granted access, individual members of BCA will not be able to obtain permits. Similarly, conditions on matters such as party size, insurance or leadership requirements will continue to apply.

Report: Bob Mehew

Work at Height - Breaking News

Late Breaking News on the proposed Work at Height Regulations and Single Rope Technique. Representatives from the Outdoor Organisations, including Tom Redfern of the Association of Caving Instructors (who is representing NCA) met with Jane Kennedy, the Minister responsible for putting the proposed regulations on Work at Height before parliament. The major outcome of the meeting was

that the Minister agreed to look into whether it would be possible to exempt outdoor organisations from the regulations. It is expected that the outcome will be known in late July.

British Caving Association Logo Competition

The fledgling BCA is in need of a logo. With a marketing budget of pennies the National Council has struck upon the cunning idea of holding a competition to find a suitable design.

Do you have the winning idea? Should it be based on an item of caving gear; helmet, ladder, lamp, jammer? Should it be inspired by the cave environment; an entrance, a squeeze, helictites, gour pools? Or designed after an activity; climbing, prusiking, thrutching? It's for you to choose.

Once you have an idea for your design check that it will make a good logo. Does it project the right image for the BCA? Is it practical? Does it work in black and white as well as colour? Does it scale well? It needs to look just as good on a letterhead as a six-foot high awning.

There will be a prize for the 'All-Round Best Logo', judged on suitability to the BCA, concept, artistic merit, and practicality.

There will also be prize for 'Best Concept' for those of us who have good ideas, but no artistic talent whatsoever. This will be judged on suitability to the BCA and concept.

The competition will be held at Hidden Earth in October. Entries can be sent in advance, entered on the day or, if inspired at the last minute, drawn on the graffiti board.

Further information and entry forms are available from www.hidden-earth.org.uk or by post from Hidden Earth Bookings, Wendy Williams, 51 Churchill Road East, Wells, Somerset, BA5 3HU.

Please note that the BCA will take the first option on copyright of all entries and will take copyright for the winning entries.

Report: David Cooke, Dave@Alchemy.co.uk

British Cave Rescue Council

Incident Report for Period 1st January 2003 to 31st December 2003

Copies of the full report are available from the BCRC Website - www.caverescue.org.uk

	Cave Rescue Organisation ⁽⁴⁾	Cornwall Mines Rescue	Cumbria Ore Mines RU	Derbyshire CRO	Devon CRO	Gloucestershire CRG	Gwent Cave Rescue Team	Irish CRO	Mendip RO	Midlands CRO	North Wales CRO	Scottish CRO	South East CRO	Swaledale FRO	Upper Wharfedale FRA	West Brecon Cave Rescue Team	TOTALS
Caving Incidents	9	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	21
Assisting Authorities⁽³⁾	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	6
Persons Assisted	20	-	-	3	0	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	8	7	41
Fatalities	0	-	-	0	0 ⁽⁵⁾	0	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	-	0	0	0
Persons Injured⁽¹⁾	2	-	-	4	0	1	-	-	-	-	1	0	-	-	1	0	9
Helicopter assistance⁽²⁾	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1(1)	-	2(1)
Animal Incidents	4	4	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	2	18
Assistance to other teams	1	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	4
Totals Underground Incidents	13	4	2	10	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	-	4	5	45
Surface Incidents	38	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	16	-	64
Persons Assisted	41	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	4	12	-	61
Fatalities	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	-	5
Persons Injured	27	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	-	37
Surface Animal Incidents	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Assistance to other teams	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Totals Surface Incidents	41	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	16	-	67

Notes:

1. Injuries include those assisted for a medical condition, but exclude cavers assisted through exhaustion.
2. Row records use of helicopter to evacuate casualty, figure in brackets is the number of calls to the RAF included in the total.
3. This row records incidents where assistance is requested by the authorities for non-caver incidents.
4. The Cave Rescue Organisation is based in Clapham, North Yorkshire.
5. The Devon CRO incident involved a fatality found on the surface - incident 24.

Summary of Incident Report, 2003

1. There were no underground caving fatalities in 2003.

Continued on page 4

BCRC Incident Report 2003 cont.

Table 1: Incident Causes

Continued from page 5

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
assist authorities		7	2	3	8	6	26
cave diving	1						1
equipment failure							0
exposure/exhausted	6	2	4	1	1	2	16
fall	5	4	4	3	6	6	28
flooding	4	2	3	2	1	1	13
hung up	2						2
light failure			1				1
lost or overdue	15	11	8	2	5	6	47
medical emergency	4	2	2	2	1		11
missing person	1	1	2			2	6
other	1	1		2	2		6
physically stuck		1	5	1		2	9
rock fall	1	3	2	1		1	8
self marooning	1	1		1			3
unable to climb		1	1		3	1	6
	41	36	34	18	27	27	183

2. Rescue teams undertook 6 incidents assisting the authorities (police, ambulance) in the execution of their duty.

3. The main causes and injuries sustained over recent years are recorded here. The 'Injuries Incurred' table includes fatalities and exposure/hypothermia incidents.

4. Caving activity during 2001 was greatly disrupted throughout the UK and the Republic of Ireland by an outbreak of foot and mouth disease. This caused the closure of most caving areas for over six months of the year.

Table 2: Injuries Incurred

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
arm lower/wrist	1		2				3
arm/humerous shoulder		1		1	2	1	5
Chest Injuries	2		2	2	2		8
Drowned	1		1	2	1		5
Exhaustion/hypothermia	9	3	5	3	1	2	23
femur - pelvic injuries		1		1		3	5
Head Injuries	1		1				2
Knee Injuries	2		1				3
leg - lower/ankle	2		3	1		1	7
Medical condition	2	1	1	1	2	1	8
Multiple Serious							0
Spine/back injuries	1		2		3	1	7
Grand Total	21	6	18	11	11	9	76

5. The underground animal incidents included 4 lambs, 1 goat and 14 dogs.

6. 'Surface Incidents' include fell/moorland rescues and searches. Teams, chiefly although not exclusively in the north, carry out these duties as part of their normal workload. These incidents are usually also recorded in the Mountain Rescue Council Incident Report for 2003.

In 2003, there were two incidents where the approximate total effort exceeded 1000 hours - incident 12 and incident 21.

7. Attendance of rescue personnel at incidents has been recorded as follows:

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Number of Incidents	32	30	33	17	25	25
Average number of people on incident	21	12	15	16	15	19
Average effort in "man" hours	170	48.5	88.25	168	82	180

These figures are approximate and do not include equipment maintenance and re-equipping of rescue vehicles. In this report, incidents are recorded normally where personnel have been deployed to the site or other operational actions are taken; other problems or alerts are not included. **Details of all numbered incidents are in the full report.**

Regional News & Access

This month's Regional Access news includes items both old(ish) and new! In taking over from NCA's SPELEOscene, contacts are still being forged between contributors and the new editor! If you as cavers are aware of new access agreements or privy to local area news, please pass on relevant information to the access representative of the regional councils named below; who will attempt to verify the news and pass it on to the BCA Newsletter editor for the good of you the caving community!

Mendip

Regional Council - COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS

For information on CSCC, send S.A.E to: Hon. Secretary: Steve King, 33 Ottery Way, Didcot, Oxon. OX11 7UG.

E-m: secretary@csc.org.uk

Website: www.csc.org.uk

CHARTERHOUSE FARM

A site which has traditionally been used as an alternative car parking area to Tynings Farm & Riding Centre by cavers visiting Charterhouse Cave or GB Cavern changed hands at the end of June. Until the CSCC C&A Officer has made contact with the new owners, cavers should not automatically assume that their presence will be welcomed; ASK!

Derbyshire

Regional Council - DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

For information on DCA, send S.A.E to: Hon. Secretary, Jenny Potts, 3 Greenway, Hulland Ward, Ashbourne, Derbys. DE6 3FE. Tel: 01335-370629, E-m: dca@theDCA.org.uk Website: www.theDCA.org.uk

Knotlow Pollution Records

Dave Webb, DCA Conservation Officer, has now replaced the book in the ammo box at the base of the climbing shaft of Knotlow Mine. He adds:

'The format of the new book is slightly different to allow one page per entry and to encourage

a fuller report and contact details from those who wish to provide more information. For example it helps to know the prevailing surface weather conditions and if there is any muck spreading going on. Otherwise everything is back to normal and we would thank you in advance for your continued support.'

Dave has placed a summary in the box of the most recent entries prior to the last book becoming waterlogged.

Please don't hesitate to contact Dave or a member of the team at access@thedca.org.co.uk if you need, or wish to provide, further information. Many thanks again for your help.

Dave Webb, DCA Conservation Officer

DCA Wins GREENWATCH Award

DCA Conservation Officer David Webb submitted an entry to the Greenwatch Environmental Awards Scheme on behalf of DCA. The entry was based upon the work we have done in the Cave Conservation Monitoring Scheme, illustrated by a 20 page booklet produced by David with photos and completed forms, plus copious reference to all the hard work you all do for the underground environment. This must have caught the judges eye as DCA won FIRST PRIZE in the "Wildlife" Section - PLUS A CHEQUE FOR £1000!! Thanks again to all cavers who helped with the Cave Conservation Monitoring Scheme as, without your commitment, DCA would not have had an entry to complete.

Extracted from DCA Newsletter, July04

GIANTS HOLE

There is now a 'payment box' set up at the usual car parking area with envelopes and instructions to place cash payments (or cheques, if you wish) in the envelope provided and also to mark all car registrations on the envelope.

DCRO Vehicle Appeal Update

The Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation replacement vehicle project is at last seeing some light at the end of the tunnel. Soon it hopes to replace the long-serving van donated in the early nineties with one less battle-scarred. A significant sum has already been raised, including efforts from DCRO members

Regional News & Access

for many years. Several thousand pounds, however, are still required.

In October 2003 DCRO launched a fund raising campaign for the purchase of a much needed replacement emergency response vehicle. The £42,000 vehicle will be used to transport equipment and provide a mobile control base for underground incidents throughout the team's operational area. DCRO is a registered charity and run entirely by volunteers. It provides police forces from 13 UK counties with search and rescue teams that are able to respond to a wide range of incidents in both man made and natural underground locations, e.g. mines, wells, culverts, caves and potholes. The current team vehicle is over 20 years old and has reached the end of its life. The new vehicle will provide the team with a fast, modern and reliable means of reaching incidents, as well as a warm and dry base for managing its rescue operations from. DCRO is appealing to individuals, firms and organisations who may be able to help financially to get in touch. If you think you would like to make a donation to DCRO's appeal, please contact any of the following:

Bill Whitehouse (Chairman) 01298 871661
Ralph Johnson (Treasurer) 01782 515753
Mark Loftus (Secretary) 01298 872653

DCA Handbook New Edition

A reminder that the 2004 edition of the DCA Handbook is ready, update pages should have been sent out to all DCA members. All access updates will be put on the website as they come in, ready for next year's Handbook update.

Wales

Regional Council - CAMBRIAN CAVING COUNCIL

For Information on CCC send S.A.E to:
Hon. Chairman, Sue Mabbett, 2 Garth Close,
Morganstown, Cardiff, CF15 8LF. Tel: 02920
-844558, E-m.suemabbett@hotmail.com

Forest Of Dean

Regional Contact - FOREST OF DEAN CAVE CONSERVATION AND ACCESS GROUP

Hon. Secretary, Dave Appleing, 128 Brooklyn Gardens, Cheltenham, Gloucester. GL15 8LW.
Tel: 01242-581385, E-m. DAppling@aol.com

North

Regional Council - COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

For information on CNCC, send S.A.E to:
Hon. Secretary, Les Sykes, 49 Manfield,
Ashurst, Skelmersdale, Lancs. WN8 6SU
Tel/Fax. 01695-728673
E-les@speleo999.freeseve.co.uk

Permits for Dales Caves For BCA Member Clubs

As the first part of the BCA 'one-stop-shop' for cavers, CNCC are now making permits available for all BCA members clubs for the four main CNCC controlled areas. These are:

- Leck Fell
 - Casterton Fell
 - Birks Fell / Mungo Gill
 - Penyghent / Fountains Fell/ Washfold Pot
- Both the CNCC Handbook and the BCA Handbook have the details of how to apply, including the dates of the Closed Season for certain areas.

NCA Training Grants

NCA has been able to award over £2000 in grants for caver training in 2003 and 2004. The amounts offered ranged from £50 to £600 and those grant aided have ranged from small club events to Regional Council events open to all.

All NCA member clubs and constituent bodies are eligible to apply for grant aid towards training events. Guidelines on how to apply and application forms can be downloaded for the MCA website at www.nca.org.uk in the Training Section, or you can obtain them by post from the NCA Training Officer, Idris Williams (address on page 12).

Training News & Courses

Training and The BCA Newsletter

The final NCA Training Bulletin was published with the last edition of Speleoscene. Following a review of the content of the Training Bulletin, it was proposed that much of the information published in the Training Bulletin would be published in the BCA Newsletter. The types of material which are proposed for transfer are the articles on training matters, training grants, Training Committee matters and dates of workshops for both the LCMLA and CIC schemes. The main material to be left out was the advertisements for Training courses and assessments. This material is placed up in the Training Pages on NCA's web site at www.nca.org.uk.

Dave Edwards and Associates are under a service contract to provide expert advice on training matters. As some of you may be aware, Dave Edwards is ill with cancer and is now undergoing chemotherapy. NCA has revised its contract with Dave Edwards and Associates to allow him to take a back seat for some months whilst he devotes much of his efforts to coping with chemotherapy. Unfortunately, NCA has yet to organise a deputy to take on some of the tasks. In the mean time, enquiries should be directed to Idris Williams, the NCA Training Officer, training.officer@nca.org.uk Tel: 01939 260412 or post to: Glen Cottage, Holden Lane, Ruyton-XI-Towns, SALOP, SY4 1JD.

For any other enquiries either look on the Training Pages on NCA's web site or contact the **Training Administration Provider at NCA Training Administration**, C/o RAM Business Services, Sun Lea, Joss Lane, Sedbergh, Cumbria, LA10 5AS, Fax/Tel: 015396 22040, Email: trainadmin@nca.org.uk.

The following workshops are planned to take place in the near future:

C.I.C REVALIDATION WORKSHOPS 2004

(Costs on Application)

September 22 / 23 (Wed / Thurs)

Course Director Juliet Parker-Smith, Tel: 01497 820512/847214, Trewern Outdoor Education Centre, Cusop, Hay-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR3 5RF. Email: juliet@trewern.bardaglea.org.uk.

November 27 / 28 (Sat / Sun)

Course Director Tony Flanagan, Tel: 015242 41210, Ffrancon, Thornton-in-Lonsdale, Ingleton, Via Carnforth, Lancs, LA6 3PB. Email: tony@flanagans.fsnet.co.uk.

TRAINER / ASSESSOR WORKSHOP 2004

Saturday, November 13th

Contact Duncan Morrison, Tel: 015242 51011, Greenstead, Newby, Nr Clapham, North Yorkshire, LA2 8HR. Email: duncan@aboveandbelow.freeseerve.co.uk.

C.I.C TRAINING COURSES 2004

October, 13 / 16

Course Director Tony Flanagan, Tel: 015242 41210, Email: tony@flanagans.fsnet.co.uk.
Yorkshire Dales at Ingleborough Hall, Wednesday-Saturday inclusive,
Contact Tony for residential/non-residential Costs.

December, 7 / 10

Course Director Tony Flanagan, Tel: 015242 41210, Email: tony@flanagans.fsnet.co.uk.
Yorkshire Dales at Ingleborough Hall, Tuesday-Friday inclusive,
Contact Tony for residential/non-residential Costs.

Training Courses

LCMLA LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REVALIDATION WORKSHOPS 2004

This list is not comprehensive and LCMLA holders are advised to contact their Area Liaison Officer for other Revalidation Workshops. Names and contact details may be found on the Training Pages on NCA's web site www.nca.org.uk.

Region	Date	Contact
Southern England	24 June	John Crowsley - Tel: 01971 502383, Email: john@crowsley.freeserve.co.uk Grianan, Scourie, Sutherland IV27 4TE
North Wales	13 July	Dena Proctor - Tel: 01678 520395, E-mail: Denaryg@aol.com Rhos y Gwaliau Outdoor Education Centre, Bala, Gwynedd LL23 7ET
Northern England	9 September	Nigel Ball - Tel: 01274 588497 & 07973 886861, E-mail: nbt@blueyonder.co.uk 23 Farfield Road, Shipley, Bradford BD18 4QP
South Wales	11 September	Richard Hill - Tel: 01497 820739 & 07876 193745, E-mail: rickahill@yahoo.com 38 Warren Close, Hay on Wye, Hereford HR3 5EL
Derbyshire	November	Dave Baines - Tel: 01298 25031 & 07980 118656, 6 Millcliff, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6QP
Northern England	11 December	Graham Mollard - Tel: 01535 691587, Email: graham@gnmminiatures.fsbusiness.co.uk Micawber, Yewbank, Skipton Road, Utley, Keighley, BD20 6HJ



HIDDEN Earth
2004
www.hidden-earth.org.uk
Brewery Arts Centre ~ Kendal
1 ~ 3 October
PLUS pre conference meets @ Dalesbridge (see website)
bookings @hidden-earth.org.uk or Wendy Williams tel: 01749 679839

photo:- Glenn Jones

Cave Instructor Certificate and Local Cave Mine Leader Assessment Scheme Handbooks

Recently, the final draft of the Cave Instructor Certificate (CIC) Handbook was produced thanks to the efforts of Dave Edwards and many others. Training Committee has accepted that it should be placed on the web site so any one could read it and make comments. The aim is to take any comments before the end of the year into account before the handbook is published at the start of next year. The handbook will then be issued free to any person who registers as a candidate under the CIC scheme.

The core of the CIC scheme including the syllabus has not been changed. However, the presentation of the syllabus has been altered and a substantial amount of amplifying material has also been produced for the benefit of candidates. The handbook follows the successful format of the Local Cave Mine Leader Assessment Handbook.

Training Committee has also agreed to the publication of the 2nd edition of the Local Cave Mine Leader Assessment (LCMLA) Scheme Handbook. There have been a few changes to the handbook but perhaps the most significant is that relating to the use of traverse lines in Level 1 caves (that is caves without pitches). This part has been amplified to make it clear that traverse lines "are purely to keep the novice on a good ledge system or away from a hazardous area (e.g. a drop or fast water) and to prevent the possibility of a fall. Novices may be attached by just a load-bearing belt and karabiner or cowstails but a slip or fall must offer absolutely no possibility of suspension in free space or entrapment in fast water".

Another change has been to the rules to permit the use of competent persons who are not Trainer / Assessors under the scheme, to provide some parts of training. A number of changes have been made to rectify some minor errors, including the use of the term corrosion in place of corrosion in the formation of vadose passages! The bibliography has been totally updated, with thanks to Tom Redfern. Reference is made to NCA's policy statements on child protection, racial equality and cave conservation.

A complete version of the 2nd edition is up

on the Training page of NCA's web site at www.nca.org.uk. In addition, a copy of the amendments to the 1st edition has also been put up on the web site so as to enable holders of the 1st edition to identify where the changes are and amend their copies.

It is the intention that BCA will take over both schemes at the start of 2005 as part of the transfer of all NCA's activities to BCA. Thus the next printed edition of the handbook will be under the name of BCA.

Any comments on the handbooks should be forwarded to Idris Williams, NCA's Training Officer (contact details on page 12).

Anchor Failures

Recently, there has been a significant announcement in an American climbing magazine that sudden failures of Leeper hangers have occurred. It identifies the failure mechanism is due to stress corrosion cracking and suggests that this can occur in other types of high strength alloy steel bolt hangers. Stress corrosion cracking occurs in a wide range of materials where a pre existing stress in the metal can speed up corrosion to such an extent that failure can occur in remarkably short periods of time (in one case, a crack took seconds to run some 40 feet in a piece of 9-inch thick stainless steel)! More normally, one is talking about days, months and perhaps years for failure to occur.

One key point made in the article is however, plain wrong. The article proposes that if the probability of failure of one anchor when in use was 1 in 100, then the failure of using two anchors would be 1 in 100 times 1 in 100, that is 1 in 10,000. This approach ignores the "common mode" effect. The "common mode" effect is where an effect can take place that impacts on every item at the same time. A simple example of the "common mode" effect is if a car mechanic uses the wrong part when replacing a brake pad. If the mechanic replaces more than one brakes' pad on the car, then the probability of replacing the pads of two brakes with the wrong part, is not 1 in 100 times 1 in 100, it is 1 in 100 as the mechanic does not know it is the wrong part!

The underlying message of this is that when you come to a pitch, you should always

Training & Events

try to use two or more anchors to hold your SRT rope or ladder and lifeline. One of the points in training people to place Eco Anchors under the NCA scheme is that they have to assess the rock in which the anchors are being placed. The Eco Anchors procedures state "fissured or hollow-sounding rock must not be used as this can lead to anchor placement failure". The procedure also requires that anchors should be placed at least 200 mm apart. The aim of these two points is to reduce the chance of two Eco Anchors failing due to the rock failing. The Eco Anchors used by the NCA scheme have not been analysed for pre existing stress levels which might contribute to this form of cracking. All that can be said is that there has been no report of such a failure of the Eco Anchor itself in a cave environment. BCA and NCA are still considering this potential problem.

So remember, always use 2 or more anchors when ever possible to secure your SRT rope or ladder and lifeline.

Report: Bob Mehew

Insurance, Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations and Clubs

A new set of Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations has just come into force. Reading the regulations highlighted an interesting point about how clubs are excluded from them. Clubs have a blanket exemption from the regulations with regard to their own members. The regulations also exempt clubs if they are encouraging an interest in caving from non-members under the age of 18 provided that they do not make any charge for the experience. However if a charge is made to non-members under 18 the exemption becomes limited to not more than 3 days worth of involvement.

It is worth noting that BCA's insurance cover requires guests to be considered as temporary members if they are participating in caving and the club wants them to be covered (see Questions and Answers No 61 on FAQ sheet on BCA's web site). Thus the limitation will not apply if the young person has been made a temporary member from the outset.

The main change to the regulations relates to extending the definition of climbing to cover canyoning! Another change was to increase the fee charged for licensing in line with inflation. One minor change to the regulations will allow

the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority to E-Mail instead of writing, to inform a licence holder of a variation or revocation of their license. Beware of spam filters removing such a notice!*Report: Bob Mehew*

Events Details

NAMHO CONFERENCE 23-25 JULY 2004 The Extractive Industries of Cumbria

The Conference will be held in the old mining village of Coniston, in the heart of the English Lake District. A varied programme of Lectures, underground and surface trips will be available. Booking forms from S Barker: The Rise, Alston, Cumbria, CA9 3DB or E-mail: sheila.barker@cybermoor.org. Further information on the website www.catmhs.co.uk

CHINA CAVES PROJECT WEEKEND Royal Geographical Society 24-25 September, 2004

Details for the China Caves International Symposium are now available online at: www.andyeavis.com. This site will be updated regularly as more details about the programme are confirmed. In the meantime, there is a feedback form with which you can register interest and reserve accommodation in London. If you would like further information about the hotels available, please email mel@andyeavis.com.

We look forward to hearing from you and if you have any queries at all or would prefer to receive information by regular post please contact Andy Eavis or Mel Hannam either via this email address or by calling 44(0) 1482 648658. *Andy Eavis, Project Coordinator.*

BCRA CAVE SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM 5 March 2005, Birmingham University

Lecture Secretary is Andy Baker, School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT.

E-mail: a.baker@bcra.org.uk, Tel: 01214 158133, Fax: 01214 145528. Further information will be on the BCRA website at www.bcra.org.uk nearer the date.

Events & Training Officers



RESCON 05 - Poland 11-18 September 2005.

An International Cave Rescue Congress; RESCON 05 is organised by the Voluntary Mountain Rescue Service of Poland. The organisers aim to bring together cave rescue teams and individuals interested in all aspects of cave rescue for a one week practical symposium promoting the exchange of techniques and equipment between cave rescuers from many different caving areas, and building upon the valuable experiences gained from the first European Cave Rescue Congress of 1999 in Germany and the UK RESCON 03. RESCON 05 will be held at Podlesice, Jura Krakowsko-Czestochowska, Poland. If you are interested and would like to be added to the circular list please send your E-mail address to: RESCON 05 Director, Tadek Widomski t.widomski@bz.net.pl or RESCON 05 Secretary, Jarek Gutek goutec@pro.onet.pl.

Cave Radio Field Meeting - 15-17 October 2004

Helwith Bridge, Horton-in-Ribblesdale, Yorkshire

A field meeting of BCRA's Cave Radio & Electronics Group, one of the special interest groups of the BCRA. The theme of this meeting will be Single-Wire Telephones. These have not been made entirely obsolete by cave radios such as the HeyPhone, and there is a motive to develop them further. If you have some other equipment you want to test, however, we can probably accommodate this. If you want to attend this field meeting you should complete the form at www.bcra.org.uk/creg/fieldmeet/ and post it to Richard Rushton, 18 Long Meadow, Skipton, BD23 1BH, or e-mail the information to r.rushton@bcra.org.uk. Tel: 01756 794538. Further Information at: www.bcra.org.uk/creg/fieldmeet/autumn04.html.

SUICRO 2004 - 23-25 October 2004

Speleological Union Of Ireland and Irish Cave Rescue Organisation Annual Symposium. Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, Ireland. Contact: Derry O' Sullivan Tel: +353 (1) 7162849.

THE REVISED CIC HANDBOOK

The final draft of the revised C.I.C Handbook is now on the NCA website from where it can be downloaded.

LCMLA HANDBOOK 2ND EDITION

The new LCMLA Handbook is now ready to go to print. All changes to the 1st edition are available as a single file on the NCA website from where they can be downloaded. www.nca.org.uk

FUTURE MEETINGS OF BCA/NCA TRAINING COMMITTEE, 2004/5

All at 10am. At Stafford

25 Sept. & 18 Dec. 2004, 9 April 05
Items for consideration by the committee should be raised through your constituent body representative or sent to the Training Officer.

Members of the Training Committee 2004/5

Convener & Training Officer:

Idris Williams, Glen Cottage, Holden Lane, Ruyton-XI-Towns, SALOP, SY4 1JD. Tel. 01939 260412, E-mail: training.officer@nca.org.uk

A Representative from each of BCA's constituent bodies:

These are currently:

The Regional Councils of Caving:

- Cambrian Caving Council
- Council of Northern Caving Clubs
- Council of Southern Caving Clubs
- Derbyshire Caving Association
- Devon & Cornwall Underground Council

The other bodies which represent specialist interests:

- Association of Caving Instructors
- British Cave Research Association
- British Cave Rescue Council
- Cave Diving Group
- Council of Higher Education Caving Clubs
- National Assn. Mining Historical Organisations
- William Pengelly Cave Studies Trust

Co-Opted Members are:

- John Cliffe, 4 Kensington Avenue, Lansdown, Cheltenham, Glos. GL50 2NQ. Tel. 01242-262505 E-mail: jcliffe@gxn.co.uk
- A representative of the Forest of Dean Conservation & Access group.

- The Chairmen of the CIC Panel and the National Co-ordinating Panel.

Publications

NCA/BCA PUBLICATIONS ON TRAINING / SAFETY, CONSERVATION, ETC.

From: NCA PUBLICATIONS, c/o 3 Greenway, Hulland Ward, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. DE6 3FE

For queries, contact:- Tel. 01335-370629, E-mail: dca@theDCA.org.uk .

All cheques etc. should be made payable to N.C.A.

For "free" items, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope as appropriate.
(C5 envelope with 1st. or 2nd. class stamp for DL or A5 items.)

Report of Technical Advisors Seminar (40pp) (£2.00 incl. p&p)
NCA Training Committee Report

Guidelines for University and College Caving Clubs. (8pp) (£2.00 incl. p&p)
(The 'Guidelines' includes the leaflet **Caving Notes for Beginners** which is NOT available separately)

NCA Cave Conservation Handbook

The definitive Cave Conservation Publication, supported by English Nature, Countryside Council for Wales, Scottish Natural Heritage and other conservation bodies. 174 pages, fully illustrated, with sections detailing threats, initiatives, policies, legal points, etc. plus regional sections and appendices.

(Sold unbound - you provide your own file cover.) (£1 + £3 p&p)

(Sold complete with file cover.) (£10 + £4 p&p)

Cave Conservation Policy (32pp) (£3.00 incl. p&p)

Lost Caves of Britain (Cave conservation video) (£10 + £1 p&p)

Radon Underground (Radon Exposure During Underground Trips -
A Set of Guidelines for Caving and Mine Exploration.) (24pp) (£3.00 incl. p&p)

Weil's Disease Card (Summary on credit card size plastic card) (20p each, £1.80 /10)

Underground Britain - Legal & Insurance Issues (Published 2003.) (£3.50 incl. p&p)

Free Conservation/Safety/Information Leaflets - just send us an S.A.E.:

Cave Conservation Policy - Summary (DL)

Protect Our Caves (DL)

Bats Underground - A Conservation Code (A4)

Code of Practice for Mine Exploration (DL)

Leadership and Instructor Qualifications in Caving (DL)

Weil's Disease leaflet (DL)

So, You Want To Go Caving (information leaflet for beginners / non-cavers) (DL)

Syllabuses for LCMLA and CIC can be obtained from NCA Training Administration (see below) or downloaded from the NCA Training website at www.nca.org.uk

Almost all of these publications can be bought at a special discounted price from NCA/BCA stands at caving events such as Hidden Earth, Cavers Fairs, etc.

Training publications may also be obtained direct from: NCA Training Administration,
RAM Business Services, Sun Lea, Joss Lane, Sedbergh, Cumbria, LA10 5AS.
Tel/Fax: 015396-22040, E-mail: trainadmin@nca.org.uk.

DEADLINES FOR FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Ghar Parau Expedition Grants: 31 August. Contact the Secretary, Hurst Barn, Castlemorton, Malvern, Worcs, WR13 6LF. Tel/Fax 01684- 311057. E-mail: d.judson@bcra.org.uk

BCRA Research Fund: 1 August, 1 December, 1 April. E-mail: research-fund@bcra.org.uk

BCA Handbook - Clarifications & Updates

Page 3, Key Contacts:

2 Membership Secretary: For the present all queries, applications, etc. should go to:

BCA Membership Secretary,
The Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, Buxton,
Derbyshire. SK 17 8RG.

Tel. 01298-873810,

E-m. membership@british-caving.org.uk

3 Travel Insurance Administrator: This is a BCRA function at present.

4 Publications Sales Officer: Ernie Shield deals with BCRA publications.

For NCA/BCA publications, contact:

NCA/BCA Publications, 3 Greenway, Hulland Ward,
Ashbourne, Derbyshire. DE6 3FE

Tel. 01335-370629, E-m. dca@theDCA.org.uk

6 Publications & Information Officer and Webmaster:

Les Williams, 51 Churchill Road East,

Wells, Somerset. BA5 3HU

E-m. les.williams1@ntlworld.com

8 Equipment Officer:

Andy Pryke, 2, St. Maurice Road,

Plympton, Plymouth. PL7 1JS.

Tel. 01752-205853

E-m. equipment@british-caving.org.uk

9 Legal & Insurance Officer: The e-mail address for the Legal & Insurance Officer is

legalandinsurance@british-caving.org.uk

10 Meetings Secretary: This is a BCRA function at present.

11 BCA Newsletter Editor:

Jim Cochrane, 5 Berry Field Park, Amersham,
Bucks. HP6 5QN. Tel. 01494-724962

E-m. jwmc21@yahoo.co.uk

Page 4, 1.1, Categories of Membership:

Application forms for Club and Direct Individual Membership can be downloaded from the BCA website and there is also a section of Questions & Answers about BCA membership.

www.british-caving.org.uk

A. Individual Membership:

There is no individual membership without insurance cover. There are two forms of Direct Individual Membership, both of which include Public Liability Insurance cover, publications, membership card & voting rights:

■ with "Caver" insurance which covers the person for caving and mine exploration activities - £28.00,

■ with "Non-caver" insurance - £16.00.

(Note that insurance cover for cave diving and/or use

of explosives is more expensive; for details see the BCA website section on membership / insurance.)

C. Club Membership:

Club Membership is available to all constitutionally established caving and mine exploration clubs - £15.00. (There is a section on the BCA website which sets out the guidelines used by BCA to to determine suitability for club membership.) Includes publications, membership card and club voting rights but does not include P.L. Insurance cover, which must be obtained separately (see separate item on P.L. Insurance).

D. Associate Membership:

Open to all organisations (training, outdoor pursuits, retail, manufacturing organisations, etc.) which are not eligible as constitutionally established caving clubs - £20.00. Includes Publications and membership card but no P.L. Insurance and no voting rights.

Page 5, 1.7.1, BCA Public Liability Insurance:

The website has a section on the BCA P. L. Insurance scheme and includes a set of over 100 frequently asked questions and answers giving full details. For the present all applications for P. L. Insurance should go to:

BCA Insurance Manager,

The Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, Buxton,
Derbyshire. SK17 8RG.

Tel. 01298-873810,

E-m. insurance@british-caving.org.uk

P. L. Insurance for Caving and Mine Exploration Clubs:

P. L. Insurance is free for the club provided that ALL club members are covered, at a rate of either £18.00 for caving members or £6.00 for non-caving members. Club members who already have BCA P. L. Insurance via another BCA club or as Direct Individual Members of BCA pay at the non-caver rate. Clubs which have a "club hut" pay an extra £100.00. (There are different arrangements for bodies which control access to a cave.)

Page 23, 3.3, Council of Southern Caving Clubs:

CSCC Secretary: Steve King, 33 Ottery Way, Didcot,
Oxon. OX11 7UG.

E-m. secretary@csc.org.uk

Page 26, 3.5, Devon & Cornwall

Underground Council:

Website is at www.dcu.org.uk

Post of Secretary is currently vacant.

Page 28, 5.1, Association of Caving

Instructors:

Chairman: Tom Redfern, 1 Old Road, Clapham, North Yorks. LA2 8JH.

Tel. 015242-51651,

E-m. tom@ingleboro.org.uk

Page 30, 5.5, William Pengelly Cave Studies

Trust:

Website address is: www.pengellytrust.org.uk

Page 32, Appendix 1, Caving Huts/

Accommodation:

ORPHEUS CAVING CLUB: High Peak Cottages, near Monyash, Derbyshire.

Contact: Jenny Potts, 3 Greenway, Hulland Ward,

Ashbourne, Derbyshire. DE6 3FE. Tel. 01335-370629,

E-m. dca@thedca.org.uk

Page 34, Specific Cave Access

Organisations:

Pwll Du Cave Management Group:

Permit Secretary for Ogof Draenen:

c/o 2 Garth Close, Morganstown, Cardiff. CF15 8LF.

Tel. 029-2084-4558

E-m. suemabbett@hotmail.com

Page 35, Appendix 4, NCA/BCA

Publications for sale:

For full details with correct prices and titles of free information/safety leaflets, see page 13 of this newsletter.

Note that the correct e-mail address for BCA Training Administration is trainadmin@british-caving.org.uk

BCA/NCA ONLINE

NCA Website:

<http://www.nca.org.uk>

BCA Website:

<http://www.british-caving.org.uk>

Both websites will continue to operate as the BCA website gradually takes over and there are links between them. The BCA website currently concentrates on Membership and Insurance; other material relating to the national body will still be found on the NCA website for the time being.

BCA Newsletter Editorial Address

BCA N/L Editor, Jim Cochrane, 5 Berry Field Park, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, HP6 5QN

Tel. 01494 724962

E-mail: jwmc21@yahoo.co.uk

Publication Schedule

Published bi-monthly, Jan, Mar, May, etc

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E-m. les.williams1@ntlworld.com

Dates for your Diary

COURSES, CONFERENCES, EVENTS, ETC.

2004

July 23-25 – NAMHO Conference, Coniston. Hosted by Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society. Details on page 11

September 24-25 – China Caves Project Weekend at the Royal Geographical Society, London. Details on page 11

October 1-3 – Hidden Earth 2004. Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal. Details on page 9

October 15-17 - CREG Meet, 15-17 October, Helwith Bridge, Yorkshire. Details on page 12

2005 - March 5 – BCRA Science Symposium, Birmingham University Details on page 11

MEETINGS

2004

July 17(Sat.) – DCA Council Meeting. 10am. Monyash Village Hall.

Sept. 3 (Fri.) – CNCC Committee Meeting. 8pm. Hellifield Institute, Hellifield.

Sept. 4 (Sat.) – CSCC Council Meeting. 10.30am. Hunter's Lodge, Priddy.

Sept. 19 (Sun.) – Cambrian CC General Meeting. Afternoon, Hobby Horse Inn, Brynmawr.

Sept. 25 (Sat.) – BCA/NCA Training Committee Meeting. 10am. Stafford.

Oct. 9 (Sat.) – BCA/NCA Council Meeting. 10.30am. Baptist Church Hall, Alvechurch

Nov. 27 (Sat.) – DCA Council Meeting. 10am. Monyash Village Hall.

Dec. 4 (Sat.) – CSCC Council Meeting. 10.30am. Hunter's Lodge, Priddy.

Dec. 18 (Sat.) – BCA/NCA Training Committee Meeting. 10am. Stafford.

2005

Jan. 7 (Fri.) – CNCC Committee Meeting. 8pm. Hellifield Institute, Hellifield.

Jan. 8 (Sat.) – BCA/NCA Council Meeting. 10.30am. Baptist Church Hall, Alvechurch

Feb. 5 (Sat.) – CSCC Council Meeting. 10.30am. Hunter's Lodge, Priddy.

Feb. 19 (Sat.) – DCA AGM. 10am. Monyash Village Hall.

Mar. 12 (Sat.) – BCA AGM & NCA AGM. 10.30am. Baptist Church Hall, Alvechurch

Mar. 26 (Sat.) – CNCC AGM. 10am. Hellifield Institute, Hellifield.

Apr. 9 (Sat.) – Charterhouse Caving Company Ltd. AGM. 11am. Hunter's Lodge, Priddy.

Apr. 9 (Sat.) – BCA/NCA Training Committee Meeting. 10am. Stafford.

May 7 (Sat.) – CSCC AGM. 10.30am. Hunter's Lodge, Priddy.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Check for details of these and other international events on the UIS Speleo Calendar at <http://rubens.its.unimelb.edu.au/~pgm/uis/events.html>

2004

August 1-10 – First Armenian Speleological Conference. Invitation from President of the Armenian Speleological Centre, Samvel Shahinyan. Details at www.speleo.am

2005

February 8-12 – “Congress 65 Anniversary of Cuban Speleological Society”, Pinar Del Rio, Cuba. Contact via website: <http://www.sec1940.galeon.com/> E-mail: raudel@pinarte.cult.cu or funatss@esiss.co.cu (Javier Mugica, Group Sama, Sociedad Espelologica de Cuba.)

August 21-28 – 14th International Congress of Speleology, Athens. 1st Circular now available on NCA website www.nca.org.uk Contact details: E-m: secretariat@14ics-athens2005.gr. Fax: +30-210-3643476, Post: Secretariat, 14th International Congress of Speleology, c/o Hellenic Speleological Society, 32 Sina Street, Athens GR 10672, Greece.

Website: www.14ics-athens2005.gr

EQUALITY STATEMENT

The BCA will make its services available to all sections of the sporting community, there will be no discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, sexual orientation, creed, colour, occupation, religion or political opinion.