

British Caving Association

Training Committee Meeting 17th December 2005

10.00 a.m. at Stafford County Council Sports and Social Club

MINUTES

NOTE:- These minutes remain as a draft until approved or corrected by the next meeting.

Present:- Idris Williams BCA Training Officer
 Steve Holding NAMHO
 John Cliffe Co-opted

1. Apologies for absence.

Nigel Atkins, Nigel Ball, Graham Mollard, Steve Tomalin, Eric Hoole was expected but did not arrive due to illness.

2. Minutes of meeting 29th September 2005

It was pointed out under Apologies that asked was spelt with one "d". Apart from this the minutes were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

It was reported that that problems were still occurring with the payment of expenses. T.O. stated that he had been promised some cheques to hand out at this meeting but they had not yet arrived.

Joint Services Award

No report but Graham Mollard had attended a JSA training course as an observer and would be reporting to NCP.

Trainer Assessor Insurance

T.O. reported that he had spoken to Dave Judson & Nick Williams and given them sufficient information for them to discuss with the broker, and he had been given reason to believe that this could be included in the BCA Policy from January. T.O stated that if this came about from January it would be necessary to make some temporary arrangements for the first year as individual T/As policies would expire at various times during the year and T/As would register from 1st January without the necessary increase to registration fees to cover the increased insurance premium.

Porth-yr-Ogof

T.O. Reported that he had written to all S.Wales T/As stating that from 31st December all section 5s involving Porth-yr-Ogof would be issued "Excluding deep water" unless the Section 4 stated that it was included. This being what Training Committee had decided in September, he had had no reaction to this but he felt that this had gone beyond what S.Wales Panel had agreed.
Publications Weather. T.O. reported that he had issued a contract to examine the various information available and produce a set of headings for a booklet on this subject referenced to the sources.

Risk Assessment

P.R. had promised to send out some examples of risk assessments for discussion. This had not happened.

4. NCP Report back.
No report available.

5. CIC Panel Report back.

No formal report available. However, T.O. had been informed that the Panel had confirmed the need for 3 more Trainer/Assessors. The meeting resolved that the procedure for selection be put in place. A discussion on the procedure followed particularly on the role of the Training Officer in the procedure. T.O. stated that he had no strong feelings about his participation in the interview panel but he thought it might be ruled out in the procedure laid down in the CIC Handbook.

Action:- T.O. to discuss the composition of the interview panel with CIC Panel Chair and proceed to advertising.

CIC Handbook.

T.O. reported that the CIC handbook was just about ready to be printed as soon as some tweaking was done to the position of the headings on the cover. While publishing it would be necessary to introduce a new BCA fee. At present there was no agreed charge for issuing another certificate as a copy or due to the addition of the Mines Module. The committee agreed that this should be £15 in common with LCMLA equivalents. Similarly it was agreed that the charge for exemptions from training, holding Level2 LCMLA, or any assessment module would be £30 for each exemption. J.C. expressed the belief that there should be no exemption from assessment.

T.O. Stated that there was currently an anomaly in Trainer Assessor fees that LCMLA T/As paid £30 LCMLA & CIC T/As paid £40 but CIC only T/As paid £10. The Committee agreed that the Fees should be £30 for one scheme and £40 for both.

6. Routine Re-validations.

T.O. stated that 3 occurrences in quick succession had made him add this to the agenda.

1. A letter had been received from an LCMLA T/A, who had not revalidated and had been removed from the list, attacking the whole principle of revalidation and stating that it was generally considered "a waste of time". T.O. tabled a copy of his letter with T.Os. draft reply in red. The committee agreed that the reply be sent including a request for alternatives and pointing out that it had provoked a discussion on the subject.

2. Another LCMLA T/A CIC award had expired and he had been told by TASP that he would be removed from the list. He had stated that as his award was for life with no expiry date he did not need to revalidate. T.O. had investigated this and had found that all CIC prior to 1992 had been open ended. This T/A had attended CIC workshops since to revalidate not raising this issue. T.O. had not removed him from the list as he could show a valid award. The committee agreed that NCP be asked to consider changing the wording of the LCMLA handbook to ensure that all T/As had to revalidate.

3. T.O. had received an "email" from Marcus Baillie at AALA suggesting that if BCA were strapped for cash due to loss of Sports Council funding would it be possible to economise by scrapping the revalidation process. There would be some theoretical saving in TASP's hours by doing this but T.O. doubted if these would be realised in practise. J.C. explained that AALA would not insist that centre staff revalidated their awards, but checks on competence of the staff were carried out. Many centres took the view that staff should revalidate as an "easy

route" for proving competence, however, this placed a heavy burden on staff time involved in revalidating several awards.

J.C. expressed the view that whilst some form of continuing professional development was essential the route CIC revalidation was taking was very inflexible and prescriptive. T.O. stated that if other routes were found for revalidation then the lower numbers coming to workshops would make the running of sufficient workshops difficult. One method that had occurred to him was a "community service option" where a CIC holder could revalidate by doing a free weekend training session for recreational cavers and this being subjected to monitoring process. There was doubt if the views against the revalidation workshops were widespread. T.O. intended to attend the next workshop as an observer to gain a feel for the issue and to ask the view of CIC and NCP on the subject.

7. Training Funding UK Sport/Sport England.

T.O. reported that representations were being made by BCA and other affected bodies via CCPR and at present there was nothing to report.

J.C. requested on behalf of AALA a contact within the Sports Councils so that AALA could lobby on behalf of BCA.

Action:- T.O. to contact Mick Day to provide this.

T.O. had circulated as requested at the last meeting a report on the financial status without government grants. If the contribution to C&A were dropped and recreational training grants were funded from elsewhere, then it would be possible to survive by increasing BCA fees by 50% across the board assuming numbers remained constant. T.O. proposed that the LCMLA registration fees be increased by £5. The justification for this being that the fees had been static for many years it would help to build a surplus to cushion the rise if grants were lost and reduce the impact of a big rise if the grants were lost. (The Combined LCMLA & CIC registration would also increase by the same amount). All other fees to remain static at present. The committee suggested this be taken to BCA Council for approval. A general discussion on BCA financial affairs followed.

8. Trainer Assessor Status for 2006

T.O. reported that 2 members of the Forest of Dean Panel had not attended the Trainer Assessor workshops that were due in 2005. Furthermore, the Forest of Dean Panel had not held a meeting in 2005. A discussion followed on the need for a separate panel in the Forest of Dean.

There were 3 Trainer Assessors who had not revalidated their Awards due in 2005.

The N.Wales panel was due to hold a panel meeting in December having 4 T/As who had not yet attended one.

Derbyshire panel had 2 members who had not attended panel meetings (it being assumed that the 3 new appointees could be exempted this requirement).

Northern Panel had one member not attend a panel meeting.

9. Overview of Award schemes.

T.O. introduced a flow chart which had come from Nigel Ball and the CIC Panel. At present nearly all the training is in caving skills. There being little

emphasis on teaching or leadership skills. The chart shows caving skills as a progression in one direction and leadership/teaching skills in another. J.C. stated that there had been a similar concept previously as a presentation to CIC Panel but it had been rejected.

T.O. thought that this raised the possibility of opening up the skills side of the awards to recreational cavers. J.C. said that that would be similar to the BCU system of awards and coaching awards, however, the philosophy and club structure in canoeing encouraged formal training to set standards. It was agreed that the standards of skills instruction in caving were poor but it seemed unlikely that recreational cavers would participate in large numbers in such a scheme.

The subject led on into a discussion on means of assisting club training officers to raise standards perhaps through Regional Councils.

10. Training Grants

2005 progress. Applications had been received for funding of events as follows:-

DCA Cave Leaders Workshop in January for £100 which may have been funded from 2004 money.

DCA "Cavers fair" event in Feb. went ahead in May they applied for £600 but in the end only required £370.

DCA SRT basic in Aug. was cancelled

DCA Rig and Rescue Nov. Waiting a report. £100 promised.

There was also an application for a bolting course which was not part of Training Committee's remit.

Elysium Underground Advanced SRT £100

Devon Mining Club SRT promised £130 but cancelled.

S.Wales Ladder and Lifeline was cancelled (a grant could not have been made as no CIC was used).

CHECC £500 applied for but not yet approved as they haven't confirmed CICs. They have lost £201 of NCA SRT kit. No report yet received.

Our Commitment is £1070 from a budget of £2000.

However, Jonathan Roberts (BCA Treasurer) has said that if approved in 2005, but carried out in 2006 they can be allocated to 2005.

2006 progress. Applications have been received as follows:-

DCA. Mine Stabilisation. £100 approved to take place in Jan.

SRT Club training officers £210 approved to take place in Jan.

DCA/BCA Cavers Workshop £600 approved, but historically, this turns into a claim for much less.

Crewe Pothole Club SRT workshop £130 approved for Jan.

Commitment so far £1040.

T.O. said that he was expecting to make an application on behalf of Shropshire Scouts for a basic SRT course for about £150.

T.O. Asked for Regional reps to promote the training grants. There was also discussion about promoting an event probably in S.Wales aimed at Club Trainers.

Action:- T.O. to come up with a plan for a weekend event.

11. Any other Business.

BCA Handbook. T.O. had received a draft entry from Dave Judson, on the work of the Training Committee. This was discussed and some amendments proposed.

Action:- T.O. to send amended version to Dave Judson.

Media response following recent accident. S.H. raised this matter. It was apparent that BCA did not have a coordinated approach to these matters and it was felt that there should be a core group who knew who to ask for information and kept ill-informed comment out of the media.

12. Dates of next meetings.

Sat. 8th April and Thurs. 28th Sept. were agreed. T.O. suggested 16th Dec. but as this was the last Saturday before Christmas it was agreed to circulate members to see if this had a bearing on the attendance.