

British Caving Association
Training Committee Meeting 16th Dec. 2006
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
 Graham Mollard NCP Chair
 Tom Redfern ACI

1. Apologies for absence Nigel Ball, Nigel Atkins/Jenny Potts, Steve Holding, John Cliffe, Chips Rafferty, Richard Hill (was due to come but was unable to find it)

2. Minutes of meeting 28th Sept. 2006

G.M. pointed out that it was Steve Long of BMC not Steve Longton as typed and that Ripon was spelt with one "P".

T.R. wished it to be recorded that he was against any Gorge Walking scheme, which was not apparent from the wording, and he would suggest a more acceptable wording.

The minutes were otherwise agreed as a true record.

Action:- T.R. to provide this wording

3. Matters arising from the minutes

Mines Inspectors T.O. stated that he had spoken to Dave Carlisle about including Neil Rushton, however, he had not proceeded as it seemed that N.R. was a Mine Surveyor not a Mines Engineer. T.O. confirmed that other suitably qualified persons could be covered by BCA Insurance to carry out this function.

Action :- G.M. to contact HSE to find what qualifications are accepted by them

Ireland Rep & North T.O. Reported that there had been a request to run a CIC course in the Republic. He had discussed the feasibility with Nigel Ball and had reported back to the inquirers but they had not to date proceeded. It was agreed that the next move on this matter should come from the Irish if they wished to explore the possibilities of working together.

Insurance T.O. reported that he had spoken to Nick Williams, renewal negotiations are under way and it looks promising that Trainer Assessor work can be included.

Recreational Caver syllabus T.O. apologised for lack of progress in this matter. He was to provide the headings and John Cliffe had offered expand on these.

Gorge walking T.R. reported that Steve Long in addressing the Northern Panel had made it clear that BMC had no intention of setting up any scheme in this area and would liase closely with BCA should this subject be raised again.

Youth and Development T.O. reported that BCA Council had approved the proposals for assistance to voluntary youth groups, with a slight change in that the registration refund would take place after completion of training. They have allocated £1000 towards this with a review promised as and when necessary. T.O. has written to all the National Youth groups he could think of:- Scouts, Guides, Woodcraft Folk, BP Scouts, Boys Brigade, Red cross Cadets, Church lads and girls Brigade, Girls Brigade, Girls Venture Corps, Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade, St

Andrews and St Johns Cadets. He had also been asked to provide a BCA speaker for a Scout Caving assessor's Forum. Since he was going anyway he talked about the Award schemes and this assistance scheme.

Action T.O. to get a link inserted on the website

Replacement Training Administration Service Person Pat Ramsden's replacement has been identified (Karen Slatcher, a Derbyshire caver and Orpheus member), and discussions about contract of employment are under way. T.O. will take her on a visit to Pat as soon as possible.

Work at Height T.R. reported that the HSE consultation period for this had gone well and that the result was that our proposals would go ahead.

4. NCP Report back

a) Revalidation changes

5 year revalidations The transitional arrangements were discussed and it was agreed that 5 years would be given to any candidate who had attended a workshop or gained the award since the last Training Committee meeting, when it was agreed. This would mean re-issuing certificates in a few cases. Standard or Leadership Developments by other routes would continue to get only three years until they were phased out.

b) Handbook amendments

G.M. Tabled some amendments that were necessary to the Log Book pages as a consequence of the move to 5 year revalidations. These were agreed.

T. R. queried the Trainer assessor agreement. This had changed as of the September meeting and the new form had gone out for 2007.

G.M. went through the Handbook changes (there was some confusion as the circulated version seemed not to have been printed out correctly on T.O.'s computer). Some minor changes to the draft, not previously agreed, were noted and agreed including the removal of reference to the Training Technical Advisor and replacement with the Training Officer.

Action:- G.M. to finalise the numbering and agree final print with T.A.S.P

c) Trainer assessor status

Discussion took place on the desirability of changing the start date for the Trainer Assessor year (currently 1st January) to simplify the position should the BCA insurance be extended to Trainer Assessor work. It was agreed that on balance it was preferable for the two to coincide although it would mean that the insurance fee might not be known at the beginning of the year.

Level 2 Trainer/Assessors restricted by exclusion of SRT module. There was only one of these for historical reasons, however, another had an identical background and this restriction did not apply. It was agreed to lift this restriction.

Mines local knowledge vetting only Trainer/Assessors There are two of these in the Forest of Dean Panel whose function was that of providing advice only. A discussion took place on the need for them to jump through all the Trainer Assessor hoops. It was agreed that the post of Panel Advisor could be created to avoid this.

T.O. Reported that Steve Tomalin, who was currently included as a T/A for mines advice only, had recently attended a T/A workshop to regain his status but had now lost it as he had re-validated his Award by a standard re-validation.

Des Marshall T.O. Reported that he had met Des Marshall recently, who had told him that, he had not attended a Derbyshire Panel meeting this year. He has not

been on the panel for a full year. It was agreed that provided he attended a Derbyshire Panel Meeting as soon as possible he would not be removed from the list.

Rory Gregory T.O. Reported that Rory Gregory, (whose CIC was one of the early ones with no expiry date), had been told that, subject to a logbook check he could continue as T/A in 2006. But for 2007 it was intended to change the Handbook and he would have to attend a CIC Workshop. As the new edition is not yet out it was agreed that he could continue until the end of June 2007.
Action T.O. to inform Rory Gregory

Designated Routes NCP had discussed designated routes in caves for inserting on Section 5s. Some Areas thought this was a good idea others disagreed. The meeting came to no conclusions as it was felt that this was up to individuals in individual caves.

Forest of Dean Panel NCP considered the necessity of this Panel. All the full trainer/assessors were either S.Wales or S.England panel members and all Award holders also had sites in one or more of these regions. The meeting agreed that as this had been discussed at the last meeting the subject should be left for at least a year. The problem of lack of representation of this panel at NCP had been raised. It was agreed to introduce an obligation for ALOs to attend NCP into the handbook.

Geological knowledge of LCMLA candidates It had been noted that great discrepancies existed in the standard of knowledge requested of candidates. G.M. will ask all Panels to discuss this so that a consensus can be arrived at and a syllabus drawn up. This could be backed up with some kind of pamphlet.

5. CIC Panel report back

a) Revalidation Workshops

C.I.C. Panel had agreed that workshops should be reduced to one day. The matter of fees for the Workshop Director and paid by the candidates was discussed and it was agreed that this matter should go to CIC panel with a recommendation that the Workshop Director should be paid £180 and the candidate should pay £75 including the administration. These fee levels would enable workshops of three to break even, if there were no incidental costs. Workshops with more than three could subsidise these.

b) CIC Assessments

T.R. reported that CIC Panel had agreed that when candidates apply for a first assessment their logbooks should be checked, at that time, by at least three trainer/assessors to ensure consistency. Logbooks should be sent to TASP who will copy these to three trainer/assessors for checking.

6. Student Seminar

T.O. Reported that this took place in Mendip this year. Andy Sparrow was asked to provide two CICs for SRT training. We have had a bill from Chris Binding (it was just after he had finished his CIC). Nothing had been received from Andy Sparrow unless it went straight to Dave Cooke, the acting treasurer. We should pay £100 towards the room hire. Equipment:- The SRT kits had not yet come back from Andy so it was not known if the equipment lost last year had been returned. It was agreed to draw a line under last year and pay the promised £500 less the value of missing kit. Also that the missing items be replaced.

Concern was expressed that insufficient guidance about the amount of evidence required to authorise these expenditures might be given.

Action:- T.O. to ask BCA Treasurer to investigate and provide guidelines

7. Training Grants 2006 & 2007

2006 T.O. apologised that he didn't have figures to hand but we will be underspent again by about £400-600

2007 T.O. Reported that he had DCA's spring event applied for and approved. He would shortly be applying for a grant for Shropshire Scouts SRT training about £100-£150. T.O appealed to regional reps. to get fingers out please. The meeting expressed despair that these grants were available yet clubs and regional councils were not applying for them.

8. Any other business

No new business was introduced.

9. Dates of next meetings

Sat. 21st April is agreed

Thurs. 27th Sept is agreed

Sat. 15th Dec was agreed.