

Present: Graham Mollard (GM) Training Officer
Karen Slatcher (KS) Training Administrator
Tom Redfern (TR) ACI Representative

The meeting commenced at 10:30 am.

1. Apologies for Absence

Alan Butcher -
Richard Hill - Cambrian Caving Council
Nigel Ball - CIC Panel
Idris Williams - Shropshire Scouts
Jenny Potts - Derbyshire Caving Association

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2006

2.1 MTL UK - GM informed the panel of an invitation from Steve Long of MLT UK to TC for the BCA to put a rep on their executive (MLT panel). This has been accepted, whilst IW is still training officer Tom Redfern will represent the BCA. Although the new training officer may wish to take on this role at which point TR will be required to step down, this post should go to an executive officer not a rep. of the ACI. It was also agreed at TC to invite a rep from MLT UK to attend TC meetings. GM asked TR to continue as MLT UK rep for BCA.

2.2 Mines Inspectors - No response from HSE yet.

2.3 Ireland Republic- GM has received the first request from Eire for CIC Registration. This candidate holds the Irish Level 1 and 2 Cave Leader. Exemption from training and assessment at LCMLA Levels 1 and 2 has been granted. The syllabus has been examined and found similar.

2.4 Insurance - BCA have agreed that anything run for BCA will be covered by BCA insurance. Try Caving is also insured.

2.5 Recreational Caver Syllabus - RJ has produced a 4 part DVD about basic caving re equipment, basic skills moving underground etc. GM to review this before considering proceeding.

2.6 Youth & Devt - There is a fund to assist on the voluntary side. GM is still looking into the financial side of training. So far there is no evidence to show that anything has been taken out.

2.7 Rory Gregory - His Trainer/Assessor status terminates at the end of June as he has not completed his CIC revalidation.

2.8 Forest of Dean - Still not meeting requirements.

2.9 Geological Knowledge on LCMLA - Nigel Ball presented some information regarding this at a recent Northern Panel workshop run by TR. GM to ask Nigel to write it up.

2.10 CIC Report back re Revalidation Workshops - Cost of workshop £75 payment to instructor flat rate £180.

2.11 CIC Assessments - The CIC Panel agreed on Friday that candidates logbook pages should be submitted to the Training Administrator six weeks prior to their first assessment course. The Training Administrator will scan them to Nigel Ball, and once Nigel has checked them, the Training Administrator will issue a Section 4A to the candidate saying that their logbook has been seen and it accepted as viable to go forward for assessment.

2.12 CIC Panel -GM to write to John Cliffe re thanks for his time spent on the CIC Panel and requesting that the SRT kits he currently holds be sent to Nigel Ball. All training grants should show evidence of a basic balance sheet and a report before funding is given.

That they be confirmed as a true record. Proposed Graham Mollard, seconded Tom Redfern, all in agreement.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

3.1 All dealt with, except those that are Agenda items.

4. NCP Report

NCP Meeting - All but Tony Smith attended. The question of the Forest of Dean was raised and GM asked if this area is still needed as they are not holding meetings, and therefore information is not being passed on. Training and Assessments can be done by Southern England and South Wales Panels. Dave Baines suggested giving them more time. GM suggested they be amalgamated with South Wales, the Trainer/Assessors keep their status (as also Mendip or South Wales) and the two advisers (John Elliott & Steve Tomalin) should be kept on and attached to Mendip and South Wales, so they don't have to pay a fee. Waiting for a response from South Wales.

MLT UK - Item on Gorge stuff came at the very end, BCA being there was well received and TR was made very welcome. Since Trng Comm meeting group in Scotland ????. The general consensus is that there should be no further award although training was a bonus, and it should be kept site specific. Andy Beverage writing to Andy Spink on behalf of MLT UK, draft to TR (to be sent on to GM), making it clear that another award is superfluous, but other training would be welcomed. GM to write to Steve Long to invite him to come to Training Committee meetings as an observer.

4.1 Revalidations - The initial changes appear to be working. Further minor changes were discussed. GM will write in something about courses being panel-based, but there is room for centre-based courses.

4.2 Handbook changes - GM went through the changes since the last Training Committee meeting and following the NCP.

4.3 Trainer/Assessor Section 4 of LCMLA Handbook

2.7.2 Addition under Vertical Techniques

Rock Climbing : Essential Skills & Techniques Libby Peter MLT UK

6.3.1b) Change Handlines - limitations / position of leader to Assisted Handline / Hoist and Add Traverse to Technical Skills.

4.1.3 "significant 'teaching' role".

4.1.3c "two, now three TAs".

Home Papers, Geology, Standardisation - We need some basic guidelines, possibly produce a handout? GM suggested bringing suggestions to the next Panel.

Try Caving - There was a very good response from the panels. The only one not represented was South Wales, but this area was offering to help on 26 May through local clubs. The YHA cave, hired for the stand at the NEC, is very good.

Northern Panel - Currently lacking a Mines Assessor. GM suggested that ACI might want to base one of their events at Coniston Copper Mines to encourage interest.

Chair Position - GM will stand down as he is now Training Officer. GM to approach Tom Peacock to take on this role and he has the support of Training Committee if he accepts.

North Wales Panel - The state of this panel is very fragile because of insurance issues for TAs to run training and assessments (they are not doing enough professional work over a year to make it worth paying out for individual insurance) - this whole issue is still up in the air. This could work along the lines of the Revalidation Workshops in N Wales.

5. NEC Show

5.1 See above.

6. Hidden Earth

6.1 This is to be held on Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 September at Tewkesbury School - GM (asked by Les Williams) looking for a CIC (panel member preferably) to run an SRT training event. TR said that ACI were asked to do this for the Kendal event 2/3 years ago when it was separate venue. Richard Hill ran it

then, GM to ask him initially. Also looking for people to take novice trips in Forest of Dean, possibly in the ironstone mines.

7. Training Grants 2006-07 (Recreational)

7.1 Training Grant is £2,000 per year, but GM is not sure when the year starts, January or April.

Grants paid:

Dec 06 Chris Binding paid £250.

Nov 06 Nigel Ball paid £125 (Hidden Earth).

Mar 06 Cavers Workshop DCA paid £300.

Mar 06 Crewe paid £130.

Grants still to be paid:

Jan 07 Andrew Sparrow for CHECC £250.

There has been a request from Idris Williams to meet half the fee for an SRT training course he did with Les Sykes, based around work for Shropshire Scouts. Approval was agreed as a one off, as strictly speaking the application should have been made beforehand.

8. CIC Report

8.1 Nothing available.

9. Caving for Beginners

9.1 TR reported that Ralph Johnson has offered BCA the chance to sell his DVD "Caving for Beginners". TR had been sent Ralph Johnson's SRT DVD in the past, but felt he or ACI could not recommend it. GM is awaiting parts 1-4 of the new Caving for Beginners to see if Training Committee can approve.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 "Information on the Flooding of Manchester Hole" document - There are concerns regarding this document because some of the information is questionable, John Gunn is a scientist, not a caver and caving is extremely subjective, depending on various factors on any one day. Hopefully the document will be questioned at any inquest and alternative and correct views can be put forward. Dave Barham, NYCC advisor for outdoor education and the advisor for the inquest, has asked GM to be involved.

TR commented that some HSE Inspectors are unaware that the CIC is not a site specific award.

TR said that he felt it's a shame that BCA do not appear to want to become involved in incidents such as this - some of this is because this is the professional side of caving. It should be the Trainer/Assessors, as part of BCA, who are stipulating how professional cavers operate and not an autonomous HSE Inspector setting the rules. ACI will support BCA on this. GM agreed that we, as BCA, should be commenting on the Porth-yr-Ogof incident and this does not need to complicate any ongoing enquiry. If GM gets agreement, he and TR will work with others on a document to counter John Gunn's document. This is especially important for the information that is incorrect.

10.2 Porth yr Ogof - The MOD have requested help from BCA on an internal enquiry into the Porth yr Ogof death. GM asked Council for the OK to do this. Council did not feel this was appropriate, but agreed that GM recommend to the MOD CICs that could do the job without compromising South Wales Panel's views. HSE not involved.

11. Training Committee

11.1 GM said that he was concerned at the very low attendance figures for Training Committee meetings and asked how we can generate more involvement from the Councils. In particular, he would like to add someone from CNCC, but they currently have no Training Officer.

Graham to invite Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres, Directors of Education/Advisors' Panel, Voluntary Youth Organisations and body representing outdoor education in further education, Chris Jewell (as rep for CHECC).
Equipment & Techniques Committee - It has been suggested in the past that someone from their committee should attend Training Committee or someone from Training Committee should sit on the E & T Committee, but nothing more has been heard. TR said that ACI will soon be represented on the E & T Committee.

12. Dates and place of next meetings

Monday, 10 September 2007 TBA

Saturday, 8 December 2007 TBA

Monday, 19 May 2008 TBA

Venue at present Stafford County Council Social Club.

The meeting closed at 1:30pm.

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INITIAL DRAFT BCA Trng Comm Min 070514

British Caving Association

Minutes of BCA Training Committee held on Monday, 14 May 2007

Stafford County Council Sports & Social Club

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