



COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS

A constituent member of the National Caving Association

NCA REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT TO THE CSCC MEETING 7th DEC. 2002

I attended the NCA General Meeting on 5th October 2002, and the Hub meeting on the 24th November 2002. The major issues raised are detailed below:

Insurance is currently the biggest issue before us. In the last three years the BCRA's caver insurance has gone from £1.60 to £3.80 to £5.00 this year. The trend is obvious. At this rate the multiple payments that many cavers make because they belonged to more than one caving club is unsustainable and the BCRA have undertaken to modify the system to eliminate multiple payments. This will most likely result in an individual insurance card with unique insurance number for each person. It will also result in more administration for the BCRA. And worst still a doubling of the premiums because of this restructuring before any increase by the insurance company. Next years rates will be a minimum of £10 and maybe as much as £20. It is realised that this will cause clubs a problem when setting their subscription rates. Ways are being looked at that will allow clubs to de-couple the insurance element of their subscription. Despite the dramatic increase in the premiums it is still a relatively small for the cover provided. It is important that clubs continue to participate in the scheme, since without the scheme there could well be no appropriate insurance available. Without insurance access to many caves will be denied.

There are some C&A funds available from the NCA this year. Our application needs to be in by the end of the year.

The Association of Caving Instructors (ACI) has applied to join the NCA as a constituent body. There will be a vote at the AGM.

The new 4 year plan and grant applications have been submitted to Sport England and UK Sport.

Training Officer. Alan (Butch) Butcher has found personal commitments catching up on him. He has offered his resignation from the role of Training Officer in the light of a volunteer for the role. The new Training Officer will be Idris Williams who will be formally co-opted for the post at NCA's next Council meeting.

There is an EU directive that is currently being incorporated into English Law that effectively bans SRT in the workplace. There is a danger that Double Rope Technique will be forced on amateur caving via insurance companies. The NCA has responded to the initial consultation document. There will be a second consultation document towards the end of the year. Contact Mick Day (chair@nca.org.uk) if you wish to participate. The NCA Equipment Committee will be formulating a policy to put forward the counter arguments.

It is intended to produce a drop test rig design so that clubs can build their own. It'll be simpler than the existing NCA rig since it doesn't need to be moved nor produce a fall factor greater than one.

The last Hub (New National Body (NNB) working party) meeting had representation from NCA, BCRA and all the Regional Councils bar the Cambrian. The meeting hammered out an organisational, membership and financial structure that achieves the aim of single national body and hopefully is also acceptable to all concerned. This will be documented in a prospectus to be distributed for consultation early in the New Year. There is not enough time for adequate consultation before the NCA AGM in March, so it is envisaged that an EGM will be called just after the BCRA AGM in September/October to enact the necessary constitutional changes.

The main effects on the CSCC from the NNB proposal are:

- That our subscriptions will be collected centrally by the NNB. Our income will be a tithe amount multiplied by the number of clubs that sign up for membership of the CSCC. We will be free to raise money independently of the NNB.
- That a class of membership for affiliated clubs and individuals be created. They would have the right to attend general meetings but no voting or other rights. Affiliates are all those members of the NNB that have not elected or paid to join the CSCC.
- The NNB Committee structure will change a bit and we may wish to change our posts to match it.
- We might like to consider allowing a voting form of individual membership of the CSCC.
- Now would be a good time to tidy up our constitution.

There is a proposal for non-voting individual membership to be put to the NCA AGM. This is contrary to the Hub's proposal that envisages a two-house system, one of individuals one of clubs. For a proposal to succeed it must pass both houses.

Finally the working title of Underground Britain, never very popular has been buried. The new national body, if it jumps the remaining hurdles will be called The British Caving Association.

David G Cooke
6th December 2002