

Other proposed changes

One global comment –the constitution is made up of sections see sub section 5.5, not clauses. My comments are interspersed in red beneath.

Proposal 3

Purpose: To correct the anomaly whereby what are generally referred to as Constituent Bodies are referred to as National Bodies in the constitution

BCA's constitution was substantially based on NCA's constitution. The NCA Constitution stated:

“Constitutionally established bodies representative of a caving region, caving scientific bodies and any other constitutionally established body which is nationally representative of a particular aspect of caving all of whom shall be referred to as Constituent Bodies”.

It was changed to

“Constitutionally established caving, mining and other related Clubs together with constitutionally established National Bodies, constitutionally established Regional Caving Councils, Cave Rescue Organisations and Access Controlling Bodies, hereinafter known as Group Members”

in the BCA constitution. The argument was that any ‘body member’ of BCA could be described as a ‘constituent body’. The term ‘national body’ was chosen since those bodies are national in their reach to differentiate them from other bodies. If the change is made, then any club with a national reach could claim to be a Constituent Body.

clause 5.1.b to read

Constitutionally established National Bodies (hereinafter referred to as Constituent Bodies); constitutionally established caving, mining and other related Clubs; constitutionally established Regional Caving Councils; Cave Rescue Organisations and Access Controlling Bodies, hereinafter known as Group Members when referred to collectively.

In 6.2, 6.4, 7.2 the words “National Body” or “National Bodies” be replaced with “Constituent Body” or “Constituent Bodies”

It also occurs in 2.1 and 4.4.

Proposal 4

Purpose: To avoid the potential impasse of one house voting for one candidate and the second house voting for another

The proposal adds the sentence “Here the two house voting system outlined in clause 8.9 will not apply.” Strictly speaking since the existing sub section specifies the form of voting it countermands sub section 8.9. A neater way to achieve clarity if it is felt needed, given Proposal 5 is similar, is to modify sub section 8.9 by expanding the sentence:

“Voting shall be conducted as two “Houses”, one for the class of Group Members and the other for the classes of Individual and Honorary members.”

To

“Voting shall be conducted as two “Houses”, one for the class of Group Members and the other for the classes of Individual and Honorary members, save where the constitution already specifies a form of voting.”

This approach will also accommodate similar specification on ‘simple’ voting also specified in sub sections 5.3, 5.4, 5.6, 6.15, 8.10, 8.11, as well as 6.1 and 6.3. (Gives thanks to the word search facility.)

Clause 6.1 to read

The Association shall have the following officers: a Council Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer together with the Chairmen of the Standing Committees (Section 7), who shall be elected from the membership of the Association at an Annual General Meeting, by a show of hands of those present who are eligible to vote. Here the two house voting system outlined in ~~clause sub section~~ 8.9 will not apply. Each officer shall serve for a term of three years from the AGM. One third of Officers' posts in turn shall be eligible for election or re-election each year and those elected shall serve for a term of three years from the AGM.

Proposal 5

See proposal 4

Clause 6.3 to read

Representatives from the classes of Individual and Group Membership shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting, by a show of hands of those present who are eligible to vote. Only Individual and Honorary Members shall vote in the election of an Individual Member’s Representative and only Group Members who are not entitled to appoint a representative to Council under ~~clause sub section~~ 6.4 shall vote in the election for a Group Membership Representative. Each representative shall serve for a term of two years from the AGM. Here, the two house system outlined in ~~clause sub section~~ 8.9 will not apply.

Purpose: To avoid the potential impasse of one house voting for one candidate and the second house voting for another

Proposal 6

Purpose: To avoid the need to re-elect a President at every AGM

The limitation was inserted to minimise the potential embarrassment if the President went 'rogue'. It also gives BCA a reason for writing a letter each year to check if the President remains willing to stay in place. Otherwise any such letter could be taken as an indication that BCA want to get rid of the current post holder.

In Clause 6.15 the words "The post of President shall run for a period of one year from the Annual General meeting" be amended to "The post of President shall run until a new President is elected".

Proposal 7

Purpose: To avoid the costs associated with a postal ballot

Whilst I can foresee some complaints from persons who do not have internet connection, I agree with the switch away from postal ballot. However it does raise a concern over validating the ballot votes. It would be helpful if the proposer could provide some assurances to cover these and no doubt other points prior to the meeting.

There is also a trivial error in the proposal.

Clause 9 Procedure for Postal Ballots be redesignated "Procedure for Ballots"

Clause 9.1 be amended to read

A constitutional amendment adopted by a General Meeting will require ratification by a ballot.

Clause 9.2 be amended to read

The General Meeting may refer any other successful motion that it deems appropriate, for ratification ~~by~~ by a ballot. The General Meeting shall instruct the Executive to arrange such a ballot and shall specify any wording for the ratification of the motion and associated material, as the General Meeting considers necessary. The Executive may add additional associated material as it thinks fit. The ballot shall be held as soon as is reasonably practicable after the General Meeting. The ballot will normally be conducted as an online ballot and if so shall be issued to all members entitled to vote who have also elected to receive communications by e-mail. National Council shall ensure sufficient time is given from the dispatch of the papers to the closing date, normally one month or more, for receipt of returns. The counting of the votes shall be conducted as for a General Meeting.

In ~~Clause~~ sub section 13.3 the word "postal" be deleted.

Sub section 13.3 also contains '..."circulated" means circulated by post...'. Is this to be changed as well?

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28 January 2017