



COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS

A constituent member of the National Caving Association

Special General Meeting held on the 22nd Feb. 2003, 10:30am at the Hunters Lodge, Priddy.

Attendance: John Dobson (Chairman, ACG), Les Williams (Equipment, WCC), Jon Roberts (Treasurer, MCG), David Cooke (NCA Rep., WCC obs.) John Flanagan (WAYA inc. ISG), Chris Whale (SBSS), Tim Fell (SBSS obs.), Alan Butcher (SMCC).

Apologies: Alan Dempster (Avon Scouts), Chris Binding (ChCC), Steve King (SBSS).

This special meeting of the CSCC was convened to discuss the implications raised by the British Caving Association Draft Proposal. Also to determine whether or not the CSCC recommends the BCA Proposal to its members.

No formal minutes were taken at the meeting but I have been asked to write-up the more pertinent observations of the meeting from my notes.

The feeling of this and previous meetings of the CSCC is that the BCA Proposal is, in principle, the way forward but has reservations that need to be addressed. I think the meeting was productive in that those reservations have been identified more clearly than before.

- The BCA Proposal document is ambiguous, has errors and does not contain sufficient information to make an informed decision. There is no financial information. There are no proposed Constitutions.
- The BCA Proposal document is being circulated for comment. What is the mechanism for including the results of that consultation?
- The BCA Proposal, as written, makes it seem like permits will never be available to individual cavers, whereas in many cases they will be.
- If individuals have to sign up to a region then that will create admin work sending out minutes of that region to people who typically will not want to receive them.
- Clubs are worried that their position is being undermined. The proposal should spell out the ways in which Clubs are being protected. For example to have an aim in the BCA Constitution to promote clubs and club caving.
- Jon Roberts has made a detailed analysis of the CSCC income over the last 7 years to calculate a figure for the BCA tithe (available at www.csc.org.uk). I.e. the amount the BCA would pay the CSCC for each member club. This is the first attempt at a realistic figure and the answer was £20, higher than previously anticipated. The conclusions drawn are that:
 - The CSCC should consider individual membership to tap that revenue stream.
 - Or if the tithe is reduced and the balance provided by a grant mechanism, then that grant procedure must be well defined and transparent.
 - Currently a club can be represented by the CSCC for £12. The BCA club subscription will be considerable higher than this (the tithe alone is £20). For small clubs this might be too expensive. What steps can be taken to include them in the structure? How can the CSCC look after the interests of these clubs that cannot afford to join?
- David Cooke distributed an open letter covering the various possible voting structures (available at www.csc.org.uk). The meetings felt that the two-house system was the worst of all worlds. Two systems were acceptable.
 - One caver, one vote, where each caver (individuals and associates) had a transferable proxy. Most cavers would naturally give their proxy to their club representative, thereby keeping clubs as part of the system.
 - Club block voting. Individual members will have one vote each, associate member votes will be wielded by their club as a block. Thereby guaranteeing clubs would remain part of the system. This was the preferred option of the two.

David G Cooke
6th March 2003
CSCC's NCA Rep.