



Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the British Caving Association
www.csccl.org.uk

Agenda for the General Meeting

19:00 Wednesday 29 July 2020, (Agenda published 23 July 2020)

Online Zoom meeting,

Zoom link emailed to CSCC email lists..

1 Attendance

2 Apologies for absence

3 Approval minutes,

Minutes of meeting 15 July 2020.

4 Chairman's report

Alan Butcher

5 Secretary's report

Frank Tully

6 BCA rep report

Letter from Alan butcher to CSCC members, reproduced here for members of CSCC who do not subscribe to the CSCC email list

Brief Report on the BCA Council meeting held on 18th July 2020

Some twenty seven or so people attended the BCA Council meeting this morning. The meeting was well chaired by Mad Phil Rowsell in the absence of Les Williams.

The main point of discussion was the current legal proceedings against the Welsh Government. Having read up about the process of Judicial Review, I asked a question to clarify what is anticipated as a successful result.

The review process means that, if successful, the decision by the Welsh Government to exclude caving from the open access forum because it is not an outdoor sport is quashed or nullified on the grounds that the court agrees that caving is an outdoor activity covered by the CROW Act. This will be the result that is hoped for, and what we are spending our money on.

I queried whether the lawyers had given a written indication of the % chances of success. The BCA Treasurer, Howard Jones, noted he had been party to correspondence between David Rose and the solicitor although this only reiterated that we had "a good chance". Most agreed that we were likely to receive optimistic noises from the solicitor as we still be funds to continue the action.

The treasurer recommended that we agree a proposal to allocate up to £60,000 toward legal costs as we needed to continue the action and not to allocate the funds would, in effect, stop any further proceedings. This was seconded and agreed by the meeting.

The other proposals concerning the establishment of an IT Group, P&I Working Group and confirmation of voting changes were all agreed.

A number of vacancies for council roles were filled as per the agenda although proposals to fill the individual representative roles from those at the meeting were deferred until the vacancies were more widely advertised.

Another meeting is planned for early August.

Alan Butcher BCA Rep 18/07/20



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Proposals for consideration at the next BCA AGM.

Proposed by Alan Butcher

It is the intention that these proposals will be proposed by CSCC, for a decision at the next BCA AGM.

6.1 That the arbitrary limit of £750 for Regional Council Access projects administered by the C&A Committee is in direct contravention of clause 2.1 of the BCA Constitution: that the definition of the Association includes the words "all of whom have autonomy in their own field".

Reason: when the BCA and the "One Stop Shop" were set up, there was a fundamental agreement that Regional Councils and other bodies would be fully funded in return for agreeing to centralisation of income and expenditure with the new national body. The imposition of the limit of £750 administered by the C&A Committee gives the opportunity for access projects to be "administered" other than by financial constraints and therefore is a direct contradiction of the BCA Constitution clause 2.1. Additionally, the Funding Proposal adopted by the National Council on 11th January 2020 appears to override the imposition of this arbitrary limit.

6.2 That the BCA National Council be instructed to ensure that all software whether bespoke or purchased commercially is properly licensed and registered to the British Caving Association.

Reason: There is a concern is that in the absence of a license that BCA could lose the right to use particular software possibly at short notice. This is particularly important with the mission critical software. It is likely to be costly and difficult, if not impossible, to replace at short notice.

6.3 That the BCA National Council produces an appropriate Social Media Policy. To be completed by the 2021 AGM.

Reason: That in this age of increasing use of social media, BCA has an active Facebook page, it is increasingly important that the association has a social media policy. The policy should help to protect BCA's reputation and give clear guidance to its volunteers and staff.

===== End of proposals from Alan Butcher to the CSCC meeting =====

Proposals for consideration at the next BCA AGM.

Proposed by Dave Cooke

It is the intention that these proposals will be proposed by CSCC, for a decision at the next BCA AGM.

6.4 Any ballots run by the BCA need to be beyond criticism. As such, no Council member should be involved in the running the ballot. I.e. neither the distribution nor collection of ballot papers nor the counting of votes. The ballot would be run by trusted individuals appointed by Council but who are not members of Council.

Proposal: Add to the BCA Constitution: 8.15 The BCA National Council shall specify named individuals responsible for running any ballot required by the Constitution. Those individuals shall not be BCA Council members.

6.5 The decision to equalise the CIM and DIM subscription rates may have several unintended consequences to the detriment of caving clubs.

Currently caving clubs carryout a significant part of BCA's membership administration for free. With the equalising of the CIM and DIM subscription rates there is no longer an incentive for clubs to do this. If clubs stop offering CIM membership then those members will have to join as DIMs who are more expensive and time consuming to process. Thus the hassle and costs will increase for all.

The price difference was a small but a significant nudge to encourage club membership which is acknowledged in the BCA Constitution as the best way to go caving.

The unintended consequences of this change seem anti-club. Council should quantify the impact and consider measures to mitigate any detrimental effects.

Proposal: That the BCA National Council should consider the effect of equalising subscriptions between DIM's and CIM's on member caving clubs, publishing their findings.



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6.6 Insurance is a non-optional member benefit. If a choice is given then that would be regarded as selling insurance which BCA is not allowed to do. Last year BCA removed the category of uninsured club member because it that meant insurance was a choice. This applied to some 25 uninsured member clubs. They were advised to becoming associate members, the significant difference being that this class doesn't have a vote and therefore is sufficiently non-member(ish) that insurance isn't required. Running that logic in the other direction, now that club membership no longer has a vote and is virtually indistinguishable from associate membership, how is it they receive insurance as a member benefit whereas associate members don't? The concern is that BCA is selling insurance. This proposal seeks to remove that concern.
Proposal: That the BCA National Council seek assurances from BCA's insurers in respect of the FCA regulations governing the provision of insurance that the now non-voting caving clubs and other bodies remain sufficiently full members that they receive insurance as a member benefit whereas the non-voting associate group members are in a sufficiently different category of membership that they do not receive insurance as a member benefit.

6.7 This proposal is aimed at improved engagement with the membership. The technology to do this is readily available, cheap and easy to use.
Proposal: That the National Council implement the recording and live streaming (where possible) of future Annual General Meetings of the Association.

6.8 The existing IT Working Group's membership has expanded with time and those members now include four out of the five Regional Council webmasters. As such it better resembles the structure of a Standing Committee. A Standing Committee is more democratic in that it guarantees the Regional Councils and National bodies a voice, unlike a Working Group. BCA provides web services for many of the Regional Councils and National Bodies, so a guaranteed voice for them is appropriate. This change also reflects the increasing importance of IT in helping BCA deliver for its members.
Proposal: That the IT Working Group be abolished in accordance with clause 6.10 of the BCA Constitution. That a new Standing Committee be formed in accordance with clause 7 of the BCA Constitution to be known as the "IT Committee".

6.9 The last ballot contained far reaching constitutional changes that were never debated by BCA Council, our elected representatives. Previous BCA ballots have not been accompanied by any information giving the pros and cons. This is because Council is afraid it would be accused of bias. This is a mistake. It fails to encourage the necessary level of debate.
BCA Council representatives are elected because we trust they'll do a good job. We give them the responsibility to do the research, gain the necessary knowledge and provide answers based on a full understanding of the issues. That essential part of the decision making process is currently missing in many cases. In any ballot Council should set out the case for and against and then go on to give clear advice to the members.
Proposal: That the National Council should consider the process by which proposals are put forward to the Annual General Meeting and hence to ballot and should be required to state its considered view on the merits and implications of any
===== End of proposals from Dave Cooke to the CSCC meeting =====

7 Any other Business

7.1 Chris Binding

May I kindly ask for the proposal for future CSCC meetings to be conducted via Zoom in order that attendance is increased, is more efficient, less costly, modern, and massively improves democracy and human involvement is resubmitted to the imminent meeting agenda please? I think it would be helpful for a vote on it to occur at the meeting. I was surprised to read in the minutes that it was recorded as a topic but appears to have been left to dwindle. I believe CSCC needs greater input than can realistically occur by relying on small attendances in a back room.

8 Forthcoming events

10 - 11 October 2020 BCA AGM

9 Dates of meetings 2019-2020

- Saturday 14th September 2019 (GM) 10:30 Hunters
- Saturday 23th November 2019 (GM) 10:30 Hunters
- Saturday 15th February 2020 (GM) 10:30 Hunters
- Wednesday 15th July 2020 (GM) 19:00 Online Zoom meeting
- Wednesday 29th July 2020 (GM) 18:00 Online Zoom meeting