



COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS

A constituent member of the National Caving Association

NCA REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT TO THE CSCC MEETING 12th OCT. 2003

An SGM of the NCA has been called for the 1st November 2003. The purpose of that meeting is to wind the NCA up in favour of a new national body called the British Caving Association (BCA). This SGM has a number of critical decisions to make so that we have a position for that meeting. My aim here is to lay them out for you, with some idea of the logic that arrived at the current position.

The focus of that meeting will be the proposed constitution for the BCA. We can make proposals from the floor to amend that constitution. We can also propose that policies be adopted.

The first decision is do you want a new national body? If you don't this will be a short meeting. In general the CSCC has accepted that we do. The two driving forces for a new National Body are to introduce individual membership and to merge with the BCRA, removing the perception that caving has two national bodies.

Secondly we have to decide what voting system the BCA should have. Two systems have been put forward after much discussion, the Two House System (2H) and One Member One Vote (OMOV). Two systems are proposed since no consensus could be reached in the Hub meetings. Also neither system is identical the CSCC preferred choice of One Caver One Vote (OCOV), although OMOV is pretty close if a policy of 'if you take out insurance you will become a voting member of BCA' is adopted.

As I understand it the CSCC arrived at OMOV with this logic. I preferred way forward would be to introduce individual members, but not give them a vote. If we are to merge with the BCRA this is not possible because existing BCRA members already have a vote. 2H was proposed and we saw this as flawed in many ways so the CSCC proposed OCOV as a better system, although with a loss of political power of the club to their individual members which they would lobby. OCOV has mutated into OMOV.

Adopt Two House? If so vote in favour of the new constitution.

Adopt OMOV? Introduce a policy that insurance equals membership.

Adopt OCOV? Introduce proposed amendments to the new constitution.

Vote Down? Tell the Hub to go away and come back with something better.

There are some other issues with the new constitution that we might wish to propose amendments.

- **The CSCC right of veto has been removed.**
- **The postal election of Officers has been removed.**
- **There is no guiding principle that club caving is the recommended form of caving.**

What subscription rates are acceptable? We shall not know the subscription rates of the new organisation until the SGM itself. This is a very poor state of affairs, leaving us debating in a vacuum. We could set some upper limits.

David G Cooke
12th October 2003